

CROSSWIND

The Journal of St Michael's Parish Church

Nov 2023

Vol 26:3



***I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into
the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within
thy gates, O Jerusalem.***

PSALM 122 vi

MW

CONTENTS

View From The Manse

Rev Dr Liam Fraser ... Page 3

Introducing Avonbridge Parish Church

Heather Stephens ... Page 5

Introducing St Ninian's Craigmillen Parish Church

Elaine Stewart ... Page 6

Introducing Torphichen Kirk

Lynne Sloan ... Page 7

Young People in St Michael's

Steve Chaffee ... Page 8

Financial Update – Moving Forward

Linda Jamieson ... Page 11

More Hard Teachings

Gordon Wardall ... Page 12

Festival of Christmas Trees 2023

Margaret Johnston ... Page 14

Parish Register

... Page 16

Aspire in Action

Photos by Images Above ... Page 18

Dates for Your Diary

... Page 20

St Michael's Christmas Services

... Page 21

Positive Pathways Bereavement Support Group

Sheila Rae ... Page 22

Easter Play in Princes Street Gardens

Theo Fraser and Anita France ... Page 25

Read (or listen to) the Bible in One Year

Paul Davidson ... page 26

St Michael's Prayer Chain

Ruth Middleton ... Page 27

Thursday for Coffee

Jill Allatt ... Page 29

Yesterday Once More

Iain Harrison ... Page 30

The Ones That Got Away

Bruce Jamieson ... Page 32

Seasons of Life

Rev Ali Pandian ... Page 34

SUNDAY SERVICES

Communion

Sunday, 26th November

10am in the Kirk*

and

3pm in the Kirk Hall

*livestreamed on St Michael's web-site and Facebook
Available to view later on YouTube

Weekly Services

10am in the Kirk*

and

9.45am (during term time)
in Springfield Primary School

*livestreamed on St Michael's website and Facebook
Available to view later on YouTube

Cover: 'Christmas Eve at St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow'

by Meg Wallace

www.megwallaceart.co.uk

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor

Myra Lawson

myralawson144@btinternet.com

Tel: (01506) 842634

Advertising

Vicki Carlin

vickicarlin6@googlemail.com

Tel: 0791 348 5776

Maureen Blake

sandmblake@btinternet.com

Tel: (01506) 822603

Anita France

anitafrance2@hotmail.com

Tel: (01506) 847195

Iain Harrison

iain_alan@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: (01506) 847001

Gordon Wardall

gordon.debbie@outlook.com

(01506) 840862

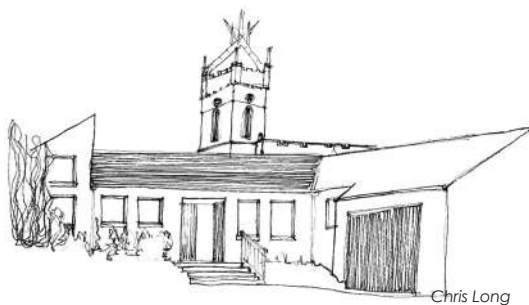
Gordon Young

gordon.young538@gmail.com

Tel: (01506) 844347

The deadline for the February 2024 issue is 1st January 2024.

VIEW FROM THE MANSE



by Rev Dr Liam J Fraser

The seasons continue to turn. Summer gave way to Autumn, and now Autumn yields to Winter. The leaves fall, the days grow short, and the cold and rain lash deeper by the day.

Yet while we are used to thinking about the seasons of the year, are we used to thinking about the seasons of faith? Do we think the life of faith should always be as happy and untroubled as a bright summer's day, or do we recognise the opposite: that the life of faith can sometimes be difficult, and even painful, but that, from the darkness, God will bring something new?



In an important passage from the Gospel of John, Jesus says this:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

So, what is Jesus saying here?

I'm not much of a gardener, and what little skills I have are taken up dealing with the hundreds of nettles that cover the manse garden. But here's an interesting fact I once learned. When a farmer has grown crops in a field for a number of years, the nutrients in the field become used up and, if the farmer doesn't do something, his crop will get smaller and smaller until almost nothing grows. And so what does he do? He burns the field. He burns what remains of the crop, burns this precious thing he has spent all his time tending and caring for. Yet the result is that, in time, the crop will *increase*, and the farmer can harvest even more grain, enough to fill a great barn.

Yet not just fields and plants, but us. Sometimes we enter a season where God appears to strip things back: strip away ideas, or behaviours, or things that are harmful to us, so that we would believe, and do, and love the right thing.

The poet TS Eliot describes this process of death and renewal like this:

I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love,
For love would be love of the wrong thing; there is yet faith
But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.

I wonder what you're waiting for at the moment? Is it happiness? Is it health? Is it a better relationship with others, or perhaps a better relationship with God?

Well, what Jesus is saying to us is that sometimes we must *wait*. Wait, until the seasons have turned. Wait, until God has shaped us and moulded us into what he wants us to be. And sometimes, that waiting, and that shaping, will hurt. It will feel like fire. It will feel like being cut back, cut down to size. But as we read in Romans 8, *all things*, even the bad, can work together for good. Yet sometimes, we must wait for the season to turn.

Because while we might prefer to stay stuck in just one season of faith, the one we've known, the one we feel comfortable with, without the changing of the seasons, the tree would never grow; unless the old leaves are shed the new ones will never come; and we must sometimes let go of what is past and done, that we might enter more fully into the future, and make room for the harvest that God will soon give us.

I wonder what season of faith you are in right now? Do you find yourself in the summer of faith, full of wonder and life and love? Do you find yourself in the wintertime, the trees bare, the Lord seemingly gone? Or are you finding yourself somewhere in between, not carried away by the Spirit, but not mourning him either?

Well, whatever season of life and faith you find yourself in at the moment, the seasons are changing for St Michael's also. For the first time in our history, we are uniting with St Ninian's Craigmillen, Torphichen and Avonbridge churches to become a new united parish, served by a Team Ministry. This will enable us not only to support ministry and mission within one half of Linlithgow, but across this part of West Lothian.

To mark this new chapter, a number of articles in this month's Crosswind have been written by our friends in the other union churches. We look forward to working more closely with them in the months and years to come.

No matter the time or the season, however, no matter whether we experience lean years or abundant ones, *God is with us*, and is always trying to bring good from bad and light from the darkness, as long as we will let him.

INTRODUCING AVONBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH

by Heather Stephens

Our current Church building was opened in 1890. However, there had been a Church on this site since 1804. Our Church serves the communities of Avonbridge and Standburn with a population of approximately 900 residents. We also have two primary schools under the same headteacher. In 1970 Torphichen Kirk and Avonbridge Parish Church became linked sharing a minister.



In recent years we had a very successful Sunday Explorers – however since Covid our Church attendance has experienced rapid decline. In the past year our weekly attendance has risen by 200% due to the drive to keep our Church open.

We haven't had the benefit of our own minister for several years. Now we welcome a visiting minister each week, apart from the second Sunday of the month when our worship team leads the service with a welcoming Agape breakfast*. This is seen to be a very positive step forward because several families have attended for the first time for the Agape service.

We have a small kitchen area and a versatile hall which could be used for community groups in our plan to move forward.

We hope to build connections with Blackfaulds Nursing Home which sits at the top of Avonbridge. We are building strong links with the primary schools and we plan to work together to engage with the Nursing home residents.

Up to date information on services can be found on our Facebook page: Avonbridge Parish Church of Scotland

Agape breakfast*

An Agape meal was a loosely structured early Christian service that typically included a fellowship meal. Our fellowship meal consists of porridge, cereals, morning rolls, oatcakes, jam, cheese, etc. These items are donated by our congregation and are shared freely.

INTRODUCING ST NINIAN'S CRAIGMAILEN PARISH CHURCH

by Elaine Stewart



St Ninian's and Craigmalen were two separate Parish Churches until they united as one on 2nd June 1954, to become St Ninian's Craigmalen Parish Church. The Parish covers the west side of Linlithgow from the west side of Preston Road and St Ninian's Road out to the western boundary of Linlithgow.

The Church currently has around 315 members and is a traditional Church serving the parish and beyond. We have a Sunday School (Jesus Factor), Guild, Girls' Brigade Company and a gold award Eco-Group. Church members started a successful community Table Tennis club which meets in our halls. We also have a Choir which leads praise and sings occasional introits and a Worship Team who take part in services and, along with others, assist with readings and prayers.

Our faith is the heart of our life and we try to provide a warm welcome for everyone. In addition to our in-Church services, we provide a livestream and Facebook services. We provide chaplaincy to two primary schools, Linlithgow Academy, sheltered housing and a nursing home within the parish.

Joining with other Churches in Linlithgow we have participated in Holy Week Services, Peace One Day, World Day of Prayer and the Service for Christian Unity.

We have a modern suite of halls for the use of church and community groups and the grounds have an outdoor and two seated areas – one has raised beds and apple trees, which are used by a recovery group to grow food for their cafe in the halls. We welcome other groups who might want to use our halls regularly or occasionally.

Our Sunday School has for many years raised funds for CHAS (Children's Hospices Across Scotland) and we have supported many other different charities mainly through retiring offerings at special services and at Christmas, as well as the Foodbank's reverse advent calendar.

INTRODUCING TORPHICHEN KIRK

by Lynne Sloan

Nestling in the Bathgate Hills, the congregation of the historic Torphichen Kirk has, in recent years, been relatively small (and undoubtedly ageing!) but active. There were: a Sunday school, youth group, study groups, choir and church band. Indeed, there was, and is, enthusiasm for all things musical. The Kirk was the venue for the well-attended *Torphichen Summer Nights* concerts. Ceilidhs and other musical evenings were held in the church hall. All social events involved the wider community. Monthly charity coffee mornings were popular with adults and children alike and a group of women-of-a-certain-age attended weekly exercise classes organised by Xcite and held in the church hall. A group of volunteers from the kirk ran a weekly after-school club in the local primary school.



And then came the pandemic! All face-to-face gatherings came to an abrupt end. The church door was locked. Thanks to the efforts of our enterprising Session Clerk, those who had access to the technology were soon taking part in Sunday evening services via *Zoom*. So popular have these been that the on-line evening services continue to attract participants from the congregations of Avonbridge and Torphichen and from much, much further afield.

Other activities, unfortunately, have not quite recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Last winter, a burst pipe in the church hall resulted in substantial water damage to the kitchen and toilet areas – and this at a time when we were about to resume the monthly coffee mornings and other social events. The ways of insurance companies are mysterious and slow! We are making progress, however, and hope to have the hall open and in operation in 2024.

When we look back over the centuries of the church in Torphichen, we can see both continuity and change – and these will characterise the immediate future too. We look forward to continuing to worship in Torphichen Kirk but welcome the opportunity to participate in services in the Linlithgow churches. Indeed, already some of us have enjoyed visiting and worshipping there. A group from Torphichen has enjoyed Guild meetings at St Ninian's Craigmailen and at St Michael's. We have been made to feel 'right at home'.

Change has long been seen as a threat but we at Torphichen, on the contrary, anticipate and welcome the opportunities the forthcoming changes will bring. We are certain that all will gain much from sharing and working together.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN ST MICHAEL'S

by Steve Chaffee



'St Michael is kinde to Strangers' – what a wonderful (and challenging!) motto. It is one that has hung in the back of my mind ever since starting at St Michael's – to roll over in my head about all the different forms of 'kinde-ness' or hospitality, and all the different 'Strangers' we encounter. Not only, mind you, the people we have not met, but also how we can become strangers to ourselves – or how in our roles shepherding others our wards might become strangers to us as they grow and develop.

And, of course, this emerges again in all the considerations that go into what it means for

St Michael's to be hospitable to families and young people midweek and at Sunday morning services. As a youth worker, I am constantly surprised and delighted how the nature of youth work even three years ago is so different from the nature of youth work five, even seven years ago. If I can be a little 'airy-fairy' for a moment, I like to think there is a spiritual discipline (no really!) to having an attitude of hospitality that welcomes (and is welcoming to) families, parents, carers, grandparents and the young people themselves.

Since last we chatted in August, I am pleased to be able to highlight here some lovely pieces of progress and stories from across Toddlers, Seedlings, Sunday Club, Bible Class, Youth Fellowship, Messy Church. So: let's get into it!

Toddlers and Seedlings midweek are absolute highlights. I have now been in post long enough to begin seeing changeovers – some families exiting Toddlers for preschool, and other families peeking in to try Seedlings and joining our wee Thursday community. I hope Fiona won't mind me saying too that on one Tuesday we had **over 100 parents, grandparents, and children** cross the threshold into Cross House for Toddlers! What wonderful news!

Sunday Club and Bible Class continue apace, with some of our newer leaders having a chance at leading sessions of Sunday Club! At Bible Class, we are preparing the older cohort to start making transitions to help at Sunday Club, Messy Church, and more, while working to bring together our next cohort. These are vital ministries – and your prayers and support are always welcomed!

Youth Fellowship, as I reported in August, has gone **weekly**. It has been lovely and has seen an incremental growth of now two or three more teens coming along. All in time for our annual **Parents Versus YF Night**, where twenty-five of us gathered for a head-to-head competition. And, for the second year running YF **WON THE GOLDEN SPATULA!!!** Con(sp)atulations to YF for this second victory!



Alongside this, a weekly schedule for YF also means we coincide with the monthly Contemporary Service. What has emerged from this is that, as they like, we have a few of the teens along – some playing in the band and others taking part in the service. Then, after the service concludes and the chairs are put away I keep some and put out tables and transform the Kirk Hall into a variety of prayer stations. Then, from about 8 to 9pm, the rest of YF comes along and we have a chance to make of the room what we want. For some, that is a chance to relax and play with playdough. For others, it is a chance to think and reflect on our past month.

For me, it is a lovely chance to see how theology and spirituality meet, and to see how glimmers of ever more mature spirituality are forming within the lives of these young people in our care. They already learn much of resilience and wellbeing in schools – and those skills are transferred and fitting into a religious tenor at our monthly Prayer Station nights.

And too, Messy Church! Our first Messy Church this session was on 23rd September, when we were pleased on a lovely Saturday afternoon to welcome families to another one of our offerings for church. We explored the story of God's Creation in Genesis. And, for the first time in a few years now, we offered a piping hot jacket potato and topping meal for families! This is a welcome return and an extension of the hospitality embedded in 'St Michael is kinde to Strangers'. Briony and I would love to have you along to help, either with crafts, serving coffee, or helping to cook! Please reach out if you have some time or talent you can volunteer!

As you can see, there is always something to do – and ever a need for more people who want to join us on the journey of discipleship. If any of this resonated or connected with you, please don't hesitate to email me or pull me aside on a Sunday morning and let me know!

Printers and
Stationers



THE COMPLETE DESIGN
AND PRINT SOLUTION

FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE

LITHO & DIGITAL PRINTING

COLOUR AND B&W COPYING

FREE DELIVERY

01506 847840

info@jmkprinting.com

Mill Road Industrial Estate
Linlithgow EH49 7SF

MARTIN GODLEY PODIATRY

Martin Godley BSc, MSc

Sports Podiatry & Chiropody Clinic Linlithgow

- > General/High Risk Foot & Nail Care
- > Biomechanics & Gait Analysis
- > Custom made Orthotics
- > Foot & Lower Leg Mobilisation
- > Low Level Laser Therapy
- > Both Elite and Recreational Athletes treated



Appointments available at:

Unit 3, Braehead Business Units
Braehead Rd, Linlithgow EH49 6SP
www.podiatryscotland.co.uk Tel: 07596 954189
Email: m.g.podiatry@gmail.com



In Search of a Caregiver? We Got You Covered!

We are one of the best home care and caregiving agencies in West Lothian, Scotland. We care with empathy and commitment.

Our Services:

- ✓ Care at home
- ✓ Private respite care at home
- ✓ Living in care
- ✓ Holiday companionship
- ✓ Night care
- ✓ Dementia care, Etc.

29A Kings Street Bathgate EH48 1AZ
West Lothian Scotland.

www.caringspiritgroup.com
info@caringspiritgroup.com

07861753627, 07862438663, 01506357379

CARE INSPECTORATE NUMBER: CS202200354 | COMPANY REG. NUMBER: SC683721

35 THE GARDENER'S BIRTHDAY

Are you 35 this year, or do
you know someone who is?

Send in their name, address and date of birth
and we'll return a £35 voucher that can be
spent at New Hopetoun Gardens!

NEW
HOPETOUN
GARDENS

...so much more than
just a garden centre

01506 834433

www.newhopetoungardens.co.uk



by Linda Jamieson

Every time I read the news it seems to be full of doom and gloom so I thought I would start this article with something positive. This year we have welcomed some new members. Income from freewill offerings and regular standing orders for the eight-month period to 31 August 2023 totalled £175,539, an increase of £10,500 when compared to the same period in 2022. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

St Michael's is also the beneficiary of some substantial legacy funds. In 2023 we received £52,500 of a £94,000 legacy with the remainder due shortly. We have also received confirmation of two further legacies totalling £25,000 and we hope to receive these funds before the end of 2023. We are now looking at how best to utilise these funds to maximise the work of the Church. Have you considered leaving St Michael's a legacy in your will? For more information contact: giving@stmichaels-parish.org.uk

At the start of the year, we forecast a deficit of approx. £13,000 for 2023. However, with the increase in freewill giving and standing orders, together with property expenditure running below budget as some repairs and maintenance costs are still to filter through, we are currently running at a small surplus for 2023, excluding legacy monies and Crown of Thorns funds. We continue to rely on the regular financial giving of members to enable us to meet our annual running costs in the region of £350,000.

In addition to the day-to-day finances, the Stewardship and Finance team is closely monitoring the cash flow in relation to the Crown of Thorns work.

We are making good progress with the implementation of our new accounting software, and we are on track to complete the work before the year end. This is a huge task, but we will see benefits in managing our finances and governance. Our thanks to all involved.

A reminder, if you have financial and/or management experience and you would like to help the Stewardship and Finance team, we would welcome your support. Please contact Linda: LJamieson58@aol.com to find out how you can help us in ensuring St Michael's finances are managed and monitored effectively.

I do hope that you and your families are well. I thank you again for your continued financial support and thank those who work tirelessly in Christian faith and give generously of their time and talents.

MORE HARD TEACHINGS — *The Scandal of Grace*

by Gordon Wardall

In this article I'll discuss a theme running through much of Jesus' teachings and ministry: what has been referred to as 'the scandal of grace'.

One of Jesus' most challenging parables concerns a vineyard owner who hires workers at various times throughout the day (Matthew 20:1-16); those hired early in the morning put in a full day's work, while those hired last work for only one hour. At the end of the day, the owner pays everyone a full day's wage (a denarius), regardless of the number of hours worked. Unsurprisingly, those hired first complain that they received the same as those who started later. 'But,' he answers one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? ... I want to give the one I hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'



We see a similar angry response to grace from the older brother in the story of the Prodigal Son, who is furious when his over-joyed father throws a party to celebrate the wayward brother's return. (Luke 15:11-32).

If we're honest with ourselves, we probably find it easy to relate to the disgruntled workers (and, similarly, to the older brother). We feel that the owner is unfair. If we had been hired early on, we might be glad that the late comers had been given work and that they received payment, *but that they should be paid the same as us?*

Jesus was highlighting the attitudes of the religious leaders of the day who were angry at Jesus' association with the outcasts of society (the prostitutes, tax collectors, and beggars) and his message that God would positively welcome such people into his Kingdom.

Why are the early workers so resentful, and why may the story seem 'scandalous' to us too? Perhaps because, after a while, we all tend to take for granted the gifts God bestows on us, particularly forgiveness.

When Jesus was highlighting the attitudes of the religious leaders of the day and their anger at Jesus' association with the outcasts of society – the prostitutes, tax collectors, and beggars – he was teaching that God would positively welcome such people into his Kingdom... However, the message of the parable is important to all believers.

It perhaps has particular relevance for those who have been Christians for a long time and may feel they've worked hard and made sacrifices in God's service. If we believe this, we may object to the ready acceptance of those who come to faith later in life, perhaps after a life of immorality or who, for whatever reason, don't meet with our approval.

It's easy to forget that we all fall short of God's standards. We compare ourselves to other people and think we're not so bad, rather than against God's standards against which we fail completely. We lose sight of all that God has done for us and all that he forgives us. If eternal life depended on our own qualities or actions, none of us would ever receive it.

Writing about this parable, Philip Yancey (who writes particularly well about grace, which he calls 'God's love for the undeserving') comments: 'Jesus' story makes no economic sense, and that was his intent. He was giving us a parable about grace, which cannot be calculated like a day's wages. Grace is not about finishing last or first; it is about not counting...'

Yancey makes the point that Christians often identify with those who put in a full day's work, and are dismayed by the employer's behaviour, as were Jesus' original listeners. We may miss the story's point, that 'God dispenses gifts, not wages'. We are not paid by God on the basis of merit because we all fail to meet God's perfect standard. As he continues, 'If paid on the basis of fairness, we would all end up in hell'.

It's easy to misunderstand the concept of grace and abuse it. Grace is not a licence to 'do as we please'. Our forgiveness cost God dearly, through Jesus' death on the Cross. In order to receive forgiveness, we have to truly acknowledge our need for it, and turn to God in faith and repentance. But it's important to remember that in sending Jesus to this world, God took the initiative to restore our relationship with him. In Paul's words: 'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us'. God didn't wait for humanity to sort itself out before sending Jesus to die in our place.

As JD Gear writes: 'Jesus' acceptance of sinners doesn't mean... that he affirms our lifestyle choices or is content to leave us where we are. Those who experience grace are *changed* by grace. But grace comes first'.

Festival of Christmas Trees 2023

by Margaret Johnston

Who would have thought when we started the Festival of Christmas Trees in 2017 that it would have grown to what we see today; a staple in the Christmas countdown for many in our town?



The Festival of Christmas Trees started as an outreach project from the Fellowship Team, as a way to interact and bring together the many groups from St Michael's, but also from the wider Linlithgow community. In 2017 local groups, organisations, and schools were approached, with 49 trees eventually being displayed in the church. This first year there were no particular themes given to those taking part, but many of them used their trees as an

opportunity to showcase all that they do. A particularly memorable tree was from the Longcroft Hall Table Tennis Association, whose decorations were entirely crafted from table tennis balls – including a light up star to top it off!

In 2018, the organisations returned to decorated their trees once more, this time inspired by their favourite Christmas carols and songs. Creativity was in full flow this year, especially from the young people of St Michael's YF who decorated their tree to the theme of 'God rest ye merry gentlemen', with top hat, monocle, pipe and Financial Times adorning the branches. Thanks to the hard work and support shown by all involved, a total of £2,767.87 was raised and the monies were divided between Bethany Christian Trust and West Lothian Foodbank.

2019 saw 57 trees decorated with the theme 'Around the World'. Trees were represented from Trinidad & Tobago, Disney World, Canada and a memorable upside-down tree from the office staff representing the land down under – Australia. This year our festival expanded with its musical offerings too with the Edinburgh Police Choir serenading the crowds on the Sunday afternoon. The profits raised through tickets and donations this year were divided between Linlithgow Link, St Michael's Day Care and LYPP.

With the Covid-19 Pandemic, the doors of the Church were shut for the Festival, although the Fellowship Team still reached out to the community by illuminating the windows of Cross House, displaying a tableaux of the Nativity story.

2021 saw the trees return with a bang, although some restrictions were in play. 65 trees lined the church inspired by the idea of 'What Christmas means to you.' And once again the festival grew with the addition of Mr and Mrs Claus in their sitting room waving at visitors young and old through their windows.



We also used this as a toy drop off for the Gift Appeal campaign in partnership with the Salvation Army. The monies raised this year were donated to the Aspire Campaign to help support the work needed for our church spire.

Last year saw our biggest Festival yet with the return of Mr and Mrs Claus, the hot chocolate bar, musical offerings from the Edinburgh Police and Linlithgow Rugby Club Choirs, dancing displays from Highland with Claire and 72 decorated trees. The theme of 'Past, Present and Future' was memorably represented in the tree decorated by Ukrainian Families now residing in the Linlithgow area. An impressive total of £6,127.86 was shared between First Steps Charity and the Aspire campaign.

This year's Festival of Christmas Trees will open its doors from Friday 1st December – Sunday 3rd December, with the return of Mr and Mrs Claus, the toy donation drop off, hot chocolate bar, and wide selection of musical contributions, alongside a quiet session designed for those with sensory processing challenges. All profits this year will be donated to Quiet Waters, which offers counselling and bereavement support to its users.

More information on this year's festivities will be coming soon, but if you would like more information, or would like to volunteer in supporting this great community event please contact Margaret Johnston (maggij@sky.com).



**ST.
MICHAEL'S**
Parish church

Parish Register

WEDDINGS

They are no longer two, but one



July

Rachael Duff to Drew Gibson

August

Abigail Stevenson to Connor Sproule

FUNERALS

I am the resurrection and the life

August

Alexander Thomson, Linlithgow

Agnes Howat, Linlithgow

October

Alan McAllister, Linlithgow

David (Stuart) Meldrum, Linlithgow

Robert Adair, Kirkliston.



BAPTISMS

Let the children come to me

August

Ivy McLucas, Edinburgh

September

Carson Johnston, Bo'ness



NEW MEMBERS

For we are all members of one body

by Profession of Faith

Simon Curran
Beverley Curran
Susan Rodger
Martin Singh
Jannet Singh



by Certificate of Transference

William Mackay
Monica Mackay
Rosemary Nash



by Resolution of Kirk Session

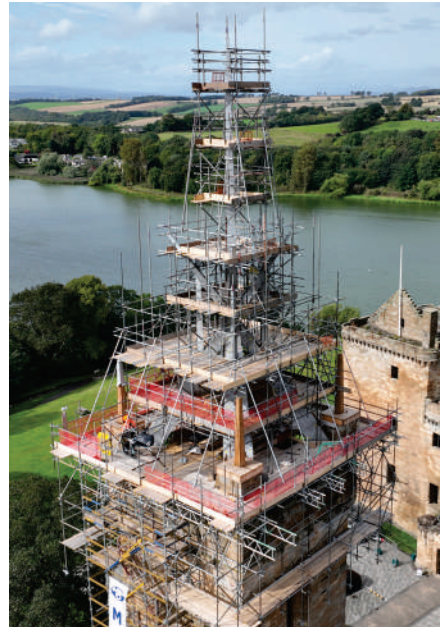
Joele Fitzpatrick

ASPIRE IN ACTION

photos courtesy of Images Above



The scaffolding has proved to be a very complex installation, with an access stair on the south side of the bell tower, a main working platform at the top, and then an upper section of scaffolding to support the Crown and give access for the repairs and re-cladding.





The removal of the existing cladding has unfortunately revealed more rotten areas in the laminated timber structure than we had hoped to find but we're confident that they can all be repaired successfully ready for the new gold cladding to be applied.



Dates for your Diary

COFFEE MORNINGS *10am to 12 noon in the Kirk Hall*

Sat 17th Feb

Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange

EVENTS IN THE CHURCH

Fri 1st Dec	10.00am - 7.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Sat 2nd Dec	10.00am - 7.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 3rd Dec	12 noon - 7.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Adults £5, Children under 16 £3, Children under 3 Free, Family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £10		
Sat 9th Dec	4.30pm & 7.30pm	NYCoS Christmas Concerts
Sun 10th Dec	7.00pm	Linlithgow Reed Band Christmas Concert
Sat 16th Dec	4.00pm	Linlithgow Ladies Choir Christmas Concert
Sat 27th Jan	7.30pm	Linlithgow Arts Guild Chamber Orchestra Concert
Sun 4th Feb	3.00pm	Occasionally@stmichaels vocal group recital

OTHER DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sat 9th Dec	3pm	Messy Church Christmas Party, Cross House
Sat 3rd Feb	3pm	Messy Church, Cross House

All events are conditional upon what Scottish Government / Church of Scotland COVID guidelines and regulations are currently in place.

WEBSITES

www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk – See Crosswind in full colour! Also find recordings of services, current intimations, details of upcoming events and all other church activities.

www.helpcentre.org.uk – For information on support available for most situations.



St Michael's Christmas Services

Sunday, 10th December, Second Sunday in Advent
9.45am Carol Service at Springfield Primary School

Sunday, 17th December, Third Sunday in Advent
10.00am Family Service with Sunday Club Nativity
7.00pm Festival of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, 20th December
7.00pm Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, 24th December
7.00pm Christingle Service
11.00pm Community Carol Singing
11.30pm Christmas Eve Watch Night Service

Monday, 25th December, Christmas Day
11.00am Morning Service followed by Holy Communion

Sunday, 31st December
10.00am Morning Service

Sunday, 7th January 2024
10.00am Epiphany

POSITIVE PATHWAYS

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

by Sheila Rae



Positive Pathways is led by the bereavement support team of St Michael's and offers support to all irrespective of an individual's beliefs, sexual orientation, race, creed or whether they live within the parish or not.

Positive Pathways support groups seem to have a life of about two years and have been going for eight years, so group five is just starting.

People seeking bereavement support contact myself in the first instance and we meet for a one-to-one session and then, if the person desires and if it is thought beneficial, he or she would be introduced into the group.

The Bereavement Support Team is trained and supervised, and the service is free and confidential. We believe that bereavement is not an illness, but a normal reaction to the loss of a loved one.

Our aim is to facilitate the grieving process by helping the bereaved to make sense of the painful and bewildering array of emotional, psychological and physical responses they may be experiencing, and to journey with them towards a meaningful new beginning.

The group is informal and meets fortnightly in the Adam Room, Cross House at 6.30pm, finishing at 8pm. Two members of the team facilitate the meeting, greeting people at the Kirk Hall door with a warm welcome and then people share what they are feeling over tea/coffee. Sharing with others can help to lessen the sense of isolation, chaos and despair often felt following the death of a loved one and can help find the way forward. Some group members have met up outside of the group for cinema outings, dinner, coffees, walks, etc. Some have even gone on holiday abroad together.

The meetings themselves are therapeutic and not social and so it is necessary, before joining, that a person is able to bear sharing their pain and able to bear listening to the pain of others.

Once a group comes to a natural end, they often go on to meet up with members of the previous groups who meet in the West Port Hotel on the first Thursday of every month.

One past member of the support group said, 'Positive Pathways was to me the place where I could be myself after the loss of my husband and sister. The leaders were so welcoming and I felt that they really cared for you and shared the burdens you were carrying. I would encourage anyone who has lost loved ones to go along and receive the support which is needed especially at this difficult time'.

Another person said, 'It is so important to have the chance to meet people who understand how you feel and can share in the ups and downs of the difficult and challenging times. Hearing about the experiences of others and realising that what you are feeling is the same as others brings comfort'.

The Bereavement Support Team also makes post-funeral visits and sees people on a one-to-one basis. The team is also in attendance at two special services held each year. The first is the Service of Memory and Thanksgiving which, this year, will be held on Saturday, 4th November at 10am in the Church. This is a special time to remember and give thanks for loved ones who have died. There will be reflective music and a gentle act of remembrance included in the service. All those grieving a loss of any kind will be welcome and refreshments will be served after the service.

The second is the Blue Christmas Service and this short meditative and reflective service is for anyone for whom Christmas is difficult, and there will be an opportunity to write a name or message on a blue bauble which you can hang on the church Christmas tree. Refreshments will be served following this service too. The date is 13th December at 7pm in the Church.

For further information text or telephone Sheila Rae on: 07719 966273 or email her on: sheila.ruth.rae@gmail.com



ESTD  1919

Veitch

SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

Are pleased to
support the work of
**St Michael's Parish Church
and Crosswind.**

Contact
Stewart Veitch or Jon Blundell

12 High Street
Linlithgow EH49 7AG
T 01506 842100
F 01506 670470
E info@tsveitch.com
www.tsveitch.com

REGENT MOTORS

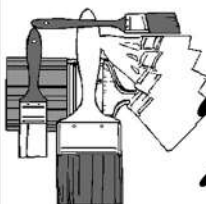


MOTs on Cars, Light
Commercials and Motorcycles,
Mechanical Repairs and Service

01506 847788

Unit 6, Mill Road Industrial Estate
Linlithgow EH49 7SF

MECHANICAL REPAIRS, DIAGNOSTICS AND SERVICE



Johnny Alves

Painter & Decorator
Interior & Exterior

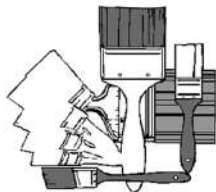


FREE ESTIMATES

Call 01506 845982

Mobile: 07533 510414

Linlithgow based
business



National Inspection Council for
Electrical Installation Contracting



APPROVED CONTRACTOR



STEWART ELECTRICAL LIMITED

Formerly at High Street, Linlithgow

12 Inchyra Road, Grangemouth FK3 9XB

tel: +44 (0) 1324 484444

fax: +44 (0) 1324 474834

24 hour tel: 07799 836858

email: wayne@stewartelectrical.co.uk

CONTINUING OVER 25 YEARS TRADING

COMMERCIAL INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

NIC EIC APPROVED CONTRACTOR

FIRE ALARM INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

24 HOUR ELECTRICAL SERVICE

EASTER PLAY IN PRINCES STREET GARDENS

by Theo Fraser and Anita France



I took part in the Edinburgh Easter Play this year. I played two parts – the boy with the loaves and the fishes – and a thief! The best bit was in Princes Street Gardens, when people were clapping, even though it was only the rehearsal!

Theo Fraser

Hello everyone, you can see how much Theo enjoyed taking part in the Easter play and as usual we need more people acting – men, women and children. No upper or lower age limit, the ability to listen and do what is asked are the only criteria for any age. It's exhausting, fun and a great way to meet new people and reaches hundreds of people with the Christian message, cast as well as audience.

Many of the cast aren't Christian so we introduce them to Jesus' message at every rehearsal. But acting isn't the only way you can help. We need stewards to help move the audience around, and to make sure people and dogs don't wander through the acting area; believe me this happens frequently and can cause great hilarity.

The play takes place in various locations in Princes Street Gardens, so the stewards make sure the audience follow the actors to new areas, but don't overtake them or crowd around; they also make sure they are all looking in the right direction. Also needed are people in the dressing room to provide plenty of refreshments, help cast into first-century costumes and make sure they are well looked after. Both caterers and stewards only need to be there on Easter Saturday of course. For potential actors rehearsals are in Edinburgh on Wednesday evenings and some Saturdays during March. Child actors need only attend the Saturday rehearsals.

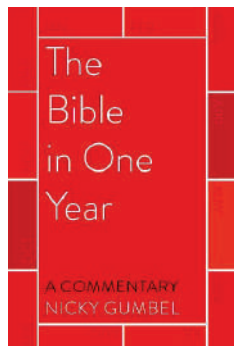
If you're interested in helping in any capacity please contact me, Anita France on 07771 866365 or anitafrance2@hotmail.com

READ (OR LISTEN TO) THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

by Paul Davidson

At the start of last year, I decided to read the Bible right through. I had done that a couple of times previously and had benefited hugely from the experience. The difference this time, though, was that I was going to use a guided study, rather than just reading the text by itself. There is no way around it – some Bible passages can be a bit confusing, and (especially in the Old Testament) can be difficult to relate to my life today.

So, I ordered the 'Bible in One Year – a commentary' book by Nicky Gumbel (pioneer of the Alpha programme) and started to use it. There are three readings every day – one from Psalms or Proverbs, one from the New Testament and one from the Old Testament. Each day has an introduction, and each one of the sections has an explanation by Nicky which I found hugely useful.



There are three readings every day – one from Psalms or Proverbs, one from the New Testament and one from the Old Testament. Each day has an introduction, and each one of the sections has an explanation by Nicky which I found hugely useful.

I then decided to see if there was a website associated with the guide and discovered the best bit – the entire guide is available for free in audio form. There are three ways you can access the audio version:

1. Direct from the website – open the day's study and press play
2. Download the app (for Android or iPhone)
3. As a podcast series, available on your preferred podcast application

The audio versions also include the Bible readings themselves, making my daily Bible readings so much easier (not least with Numbers or 1 Chronicles). I like to go out for a walk every day, and listening to the Bible being read and explained while I walk is very refreshing. Another bonus on the audio version is Pippa Gumbel (Nicky's wife) who has a short (and often very funny) section at the end.

I really can't recommend this highly enough as part of a daily routine. I enjoyed it so much throughout 2022 that I am re-listening to the series again in 2023 and will probably do it again next year. With every read through, I find something I hadn't noticed before.

And of course, I love the 'ah, so THAT is where that comes from' moments, like the one I had last week. What better way to finish off an article about reading the Bible!

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14

ST MICHAEL'S PRAYER CHAIN

by Ruth Middleton

St Michael's Prayer Chain has now been operating for well over 20 years. Presently it consists of 13 people who are available to respond to requests for urgent prayer made to either Ruth Middleton or Sheila Rae by email or phone – see contact details below. These requests are then passed on down the chain by phone as quickly as possible, thus giving immediate comfort to those in distress. It is always encouraging to hear from those for whom the requests are made, of the difference it has made to know of our prayers and for us to hear of the outcome.

If you would be interested in sharing in this prayer ministry, or finding out more about it, please contact Ruth or Sheila who will be delighted to hear from you.

Ruth Middleton – ruthmiddleton12@btinternet.com; 01506 670980 or 07530 974692.

Sheila Rae – sheila.ruth.rae@gmail.com ; 01506 847538 or 07719 966273



ROBERT BENNIE & SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS

24 HOUR PERSONAL SERVICE

*A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS PROVIDING
ASSISTANCE WITH BEREAVEMENT IN
LINLITHGOW AND THE SURROUNDING
AREA FOR MORE THAN 90 YEARS.*

18 PRESTON ROAD, LINLITHGOW EH49 6HE

01506 84 2116 / 07831 230 319

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 

also at 21 Station Road,
Kirkliston, EH29 9BB

Tel: - 0131 335 0146



Reliable and trustworthy heating engineer/installer

Specialists in gas, LPG and oil
central heating systems
Installation, repair, servicing and upgrades
Solar heating and ground source
heat pumps

**26 Mannerston Holdings, Blackness,
Linlithgow EH49 7ND**

Tel: 01506 671 177

Mobile: 07971 237 810

Email:

enquiries@aquariusthermalsystems.co.uk

Norman Cummings Man and Van Services



HOUSE CLEARANCE

Attics — Basements — Garages

(Assets Valued)

Small Removals

Short & Long Term Private Storage



Mobile:- 07808 473167

Email: norman@nctextiles.co.uk

SEPA REGISTERED



Linlithgow Physiotherapy

- Back/Neck Pain
- Sports Injuries
- Joint/Muscle Pain
- Ante/post Natal Care
- Modified Pilates
- Bladder Problems
- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Acupuncture



**26c High Street
Linlithgow
EH49 7AE**

**Karen Graham
Pamela Armstrong**

Tel. 01506 238189

www.linlithgowphysiotherapy.co.uk
contacts@linlithgowphysiotherapy.co.uk

Healthcare Insurers Recognised
HCPC registered

J Molloy piano tuning

- Tuning
- Repairs

07803 616471

pianocare.co.uk

THURSDAY FOR COFFEE

by Jill Allatt

Did you know Thursday for Coffee has been a feature of life at St Michael's for over five decades? The name has changed a few times, but the premise has remained the same – tea, coffee and tasty baking served by a group of volunteers in Cross House on Thursday mornings. One regular attendee recalled that she first became involved with the group in the 1970s when she moved to Linlithgow as a young wife. We recently helped her and her husband celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary! Of course, numbers have waxed and waned over the years, but Thursday for Coffee is currently going from strength to strength!



We meet each Thursday, from September to June, at 10am in Room 1 in Cross House. Anyone is welcome to come along and will be received warmly. The group attracts 'weel kent' faces as well as people new to the town. It can be a good way of engaging with the social life of St Michael's and seeing new friendships blossoming is wonderful. There is no need to have an existing link with the church, so feel free to bring along a friend or neighbour. Blue Badge parking is available in the car park adjacent to the Kirk Hall and the building is accessible.

Each person attending contributes £1 per week and it is remarkable how this small sum grows. The money is donated to a charity or group chosen by attendees. In the past year we have been able to support the St Michael's and St John's children's holiday club with a donation of £226. An equal sum went to Aspire to help fund the restoration of the Crown of Thorns.

New volunteers have meant a variety of tasty treats for attendees. However it certainly is not necessary to possess sophisticated baking skills; scones and pancakes are always well received. Volunteers generally work in pairs and an increased number on the rota means that each person is called upon to host approximately once every two months. If you have a little time to spare and would like to be involved with the catering, please call me on 01506 840680 to discuss what this entails.

If Thursday for Coffee sounds like something you'd like to try, please come along. There's no need to book or contact anyone in advance – just turn up at 10am one Thursday. We really are a very friendly bunch and would love to see you!



YESTERDAY ONCE MORE



by Iain Harrison

Background to 1948

In the UK in 1948 rationing was still in force after World War 2 and would remain until 1954. The Summer Olympic Games were held in London and on 14th November our monarch King Charles III was born.

Further afield the State of Israel was founded resulting in conflict with neighbouring Arab countries; unease that sadly carries on today. In India, pacifist and leader Mahatma Gandhi was murdered. An earthquake in Turkmenistan, Russia, killed between 10,000 and 110,000 people. Relations between Russia and the West had deteriorated by this point, so this earthquake was not widely reported and the exact death toll not revealed. In South Africa apartheid was introduced.



Mahatma Gandhi

What was happening in the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow and in our Church 75 years ago? Another forensic dig into the Kirk Session Minutes provides the answers.

For Whom the Bells Toll

At the meeting held on 17th February, the question of fees for weddings was raised and after discussion it was resolved that no change be made in respect of fees to members except that an additional fee of 10/6 (52.5 pence in new money) be charged for bell ringing. For non-members an extra fee of £3/3/0 (£3.15 today) to be charged and earmarked for the Fabric Fund.

Finances

Finances, or more accurately the shortage of them, featured prominently throughout the year. As early as the Kirk Session meeting held in February, it was recorded that 'with a view to economise in the use of gas it was agreed to substitute the existing system by a slot meter.' By 20th April it was stated that 'the Baird Hall heating and lighting costs are unduly high' and that the installation of the gas meter be carried out at the earliest possible opportunity. A shilling for the meter for those of us old enough to remember!

A small committee was set up as it was considered desirable that 'strict supervision be maintained in the matter of expenditure in view of rising costs' and this committee was tasked to consider all aspects of expenditure and report recommendations in due course.

Some costs savings recommended were curtailing the lighting as much as possible, using smaller envelopes for posting to take advantage of penny postage, some savings on the purchase of bibles, and perhaps sadly, cutting down expenditure on the annual Sunday School Picnic.

Ashes to Ashes

The Baird Hall also featured throughout 1948. In February the Church Officer reported that no arrangements were in force for the removal of ashes that were piling up behind the hall and he undertook to take the matter up with the burgh surveyor. Happily, it was later stated that this had been resolved and the said ashes removed on a regular basis.

The Bake Off That Never Was

Perhaps a golden opportunity was missed some 60 years ahead of the Great British Bake Off! It was reported at the meeting on 22nd June that an application had been received from a Mr Scott, Gas Manager, Linlithgow to hire the Baird Hall from 11th to 15th October. This was to hold a cookery demonstration on behalf of Messrs Birds' Custard Ltd and the Townswomen's Guild.

Perhaps this request might have been approved had Channel 4 been in existence then, but the clerk was instructed to decline this application on the basis that Church groups would be using the hall during this period. A 'trifle' unfortunate perhaps!

Edinburgh University Singers

It was reported at September's meeting that Edinburgh University Singers had requested to attend Church on the first Sunday in December to present the church with an organ copy of the Church Hymnary in memory of Jenny MacKenzie Wright who died in Switzerland in July 1947. The Moderator was asked to convey his acceptance of this kind and generous offer and assure the singers of a 'hearty welcome to St Michael's Church'.

Christmas Music

It was hoped that the sale of programmes from the singing of Christmas music (Handel's Messiah) being held on 12th December plus a collection plate at the door of the church would give those attending the opportunity to contribute and boost congregational funds.

Thankfully the financial situation appears to have improved as an account for £85/3/2 (£85.16 new pence) from Messrs Ramsay and Son for repairs to a chimney head was passed for payment without any fuss. This is the equivalent of some £3,953 today so must have been a substantial job at the time.

THE ONES THAT GOT AWAY

by Bruce Jamieson

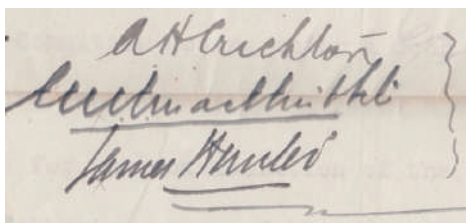
I recently acquired a collection of early 20th-century documents relating to St Michael's Church. Among them were papers relating to a Congregational Committee set up in 1913 to appoint a new minister following the departure, after 35 years, of the Rev Dr John Ferguson. Aided by three 'Heads of the Church' – all former Moderators of the General Assembly – the committee drew up a list of possible candidates who might fit the bill as minister of 'one of the most important charges in The Church of Scotland'.



After much 'soul-searching and anxiety' a sub-committee was formed, guided by 'a Reverend Gentleman, possessed of extensive and intimate knowledge of the Ministers of the Church'. The three members of the subcommittee were: A H Crichton, Manager of the Philpstoun Oil Works; James Hunter, a local doctor and a third whose signature I cannot decipher.



**Archibald Henderson Crichton
leading the Philpstoun Pipe Band.**



Whose is the middle signature?

A list of seven possible replacements was compiled and each of the selected reverend gentlemen was secretly approached. The 47-year-old Rev James Drummond asked not to be considered – preferring to stay on in his Jedburgh Parish.

The Rev Dr James Ogilvie declared himself too old (at 52 years) to take on a new charge and he remained at Greyfriars Kirk – serving as the Convenor of the Foreign Missions of the Church and becoming Moderator of the General Assembly in 1918. He died in 1926 and was buried in the Deans Cemetery.



**A plaque in the Rev Ogilvie's honour was
unveiled in St Giles**

The 39-year-old William Miller felt that the offer came too soon, as he had just served for four years as Minister of Helensburgh West, having taken over from the long-serving Rev John Baird – father of John Logie Baird, the inventor of television.

The Rev W Stevenson Stuart was written to and the 45-year-old replied saying that he had been called to his present church quite recently (in 1908), having officiated previously in Moffat and Auchtergaven. He felt that he still had work to do in the Parish of Sandyford where he had buried one child. His other son, Maurice, was killed in June 1918 and lies buried in Le Kreule Military Cemetery near Hazebrouck.

The Rev W J Nicol Service, minister of the Old West Kirk in Greenock, decided that, at the age of 39, he was perhaps too inexperienced to take on a charge 'of the magnitude of St Michael's, Linlithgow'. He went on to serve in Greenock throughout World War One, preaching some very difficult sermons which tried to find God's hand in the conflict. In one address he said, 'Those who have lost loved ones should know that their sons exhibited noble and self-sacrificing virtues and they will meet again those whose spirits are risen from the grave – the triumphant dead'.



The Old West Kirk, Greenock

That left two possible candidates to be chosen as the new Minister of St Michael's: the Rev Oswald Milligan, minister of St Leonard's in Ayr and the Rev Robert Coupar, Minister of the Parish of Errol.

The Rev Milligan was the son and brother of Professors of Divinity at the Universities of Aberdeen and Glasgow and was himself an erudite and excellent preacher. He was heard by the Congregational Committee while delivering a sermon in St George's, Edinburgh.

The vote was very close – 12 being cast for the Rev Milligan and 13 for Robert Coupar who had been heard preaching at St Mary's, Edinburgh. Mr Coupar was consequently invited to preach before the congregation of St Michael's and thereafter duly chosen as the 22nd Protestant Minister of Linlithgow's Parish Church.



Rev Coupar with King George V and Queen Mary.

The Rev Milligan went on to serve as a military chaplain in the 1914-18 war, gaining a Military Cross for his efforts. In addition, the University of Edinburgh conferred on him a Doctorate of Divinity.

The Rev Coupar, meanwhile, went on to be St Michael's minister for 26 years – welcoming many dignitaries to the burgh – and losing a son in the war, Captain Sydney Coupar, in 1918.



SEASONS OF LIFE

by Rev Ali Pandian



Recently I have been reflecting on the various seasons of life. It strikes me that in St Michael's, there are places, activities and events to match most, if not all, of these seasons. This inspired me to create a 'St Michael's shaped' version of the well-known passage in Ecclesiastes, which I offer to you here:

For everything there is a season and in St Michael's a response to those seasons, where you can know belonging through Christ:

A time to be baptised, and a time to be laid to rest;

A time to be nurtured during change in Jolly Babies and a time to be nurtured during change in Positive Pathways

A time to sing at Seedlings and a time to sing at Sunshine Singalong

A time to learn in Sunday Club and a time to learn in Small Groups

A time to grow for fellowship in YF and a time to grow in fellowship in Thursday for Coffee

A time to worship outside and a time to worship inside

A time of action-packed fun at Toddlers and a Time of Stillness

A time for Souper Sunday and a time for Sundae Sunday

A time of uniting together in joy for the Festival of Christmas Trees and a time of uniting together in mourning for the Service of Memory and Thanksgiving

A time to use hands in the Knitting Club and a time to use voices in the Choir

A time to grow and thrive through Boys' Brigade and a time to grow and thrive through the Guild

A time to pray Midweek and a time to pray Midbreath

A time to reach out through LYPP and a time to reach out through the West Lothian Foodbank

A time to feed through Bible Class and a time to feed through Bethany Meals

I have seen the business that God has given the children of St Michael's to be busy with. God has loved all these and many more beautiful things into being for us here and now, while also keeping eternity in our minds, so that we live lightly as we move forwards together.



*Loving God,
Whatever season of life we are currently in, may we know welcome and belonging at St Michael's, through Jesus, and may we extend this welcome to the strangers and neighbours in our midst, so that we find them also named, valued and loved. Amen*



USEFUL CONTACTS

The Ministry

Minister

Rev Dr Liam Fraser
tel: (01506) 842195

Auxiliary Minister

Rev Thom Riddell
tel: (01506) 843251

Youth & Family Outreach Worker

Steve Chaffee
email: steve@stmichaels-parish.org.uk

Church Office

Val Wood
Contact by
e-mail: info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk
or leave a message on
tel: (01506) 842188

Office Bearers

Session Clerk

John Reid
tel: (01506) 842030

Gift Aid Convener

Andrew Jones
tel: (01506) 840914

Coordinator of Music

Bill Jones
email: billjonesjazz@gmail.com

Roll Keeper

Alan Bennie
tel: (01506) 848166

Organisations

The Guild

Margaret Henderson
tel: (01506) 844787

Parent and Toddlers

Fiona McCracken
email: fiona@stmichaels-parish.org.uk

Sunday Club Leadership Team

Steve Chaffee
email: steve@stmichaels-parish.org.uk
Sunday Club (3-11yrs)
Bible Class (12-14yrs)
YF (15+)

Boys' Brigade

Lisa Callaghan
tel: 07894106425

Safeguarding

Alison Murray
tel: (01506) 840407
Andy Tunnicliffe
tel: 07961521919

Bereavement Support Group

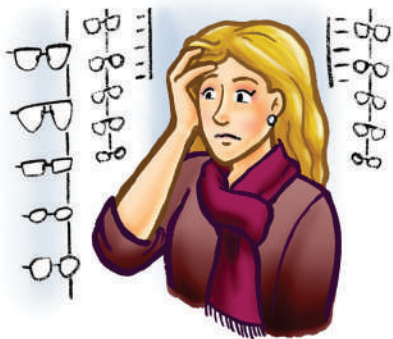
Sheila Rae
tel: (01506) 847538

Events Co-ordinator

Stephen Blake
tel: (01506) 822603

The views expressed within this magazine by the Editor or any contributor do not necessarily express the views of the Minister or Kirk Session. Editorial comment and articles do not necessarily contain the official views of the Church of Scotland, which can be laid down only by the General Assembly. Any contributions to the magazine can be submitted to the Editor through the Church Office or to the Editor at myralawson144@btinternet.com

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



Is trying to choose a pair of glasses that match your unique style a bewildering ordeal?



Robert Callander eyewear

At Robert Callander Eyewear, our unique Eyewear Styling Experience makes it easy, fun and exciting to choose glasses that are perfect for you.



After getting to know you, your lifestyle and your desires, we help you choose from our expertly curated selection of frames lovingly-designed and crafted by independent artisans from around the world.

It's this ultra-personalised service that helps you find that one-of-a-kind pair that perfectly express your character and individuality.



callanderopt.co.uk
01506 670766

