



**ST.
MICHAEL'S**
Parish Church

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your November newsletter from St Michael's Parish Church! The clocks have gone back, the days are getting shorter, and the whole world seems darkened by conflict. Yet as people of faith, we can still wrestle with God in prayer; and as a wise person said, 'Light a candle, don't curse the dark'. With suggestions for prayer and lots of ways to put love into action, read on for inspiration and ideas!



Leaving with a Heavy Heart

Our former minister Rev Stewart Gillan and several other Christian workers were airlifted home from Israel 2 weeks ago, following the outbreak of violent hostilities between Hamas and Israel. Stewart reports very mixed feelings on leaving parishioners, partners, friends and colleagues behind – some choosing to stay but many having no choice.

Stewart posts regularly on [Facebook](#) and has started a blog. His first [blog post](#) includes several suggestions for prayer and concludes "Through these days, may we be to each other in the power of the Holy Spirit, strength in need, comfort in sorrow, and companions on this journey of spiritual communion and mission partnership with our friends and colleagues in Israel and Palestine".



Harvest Food Collection

Grateful thanks from West Lothian Foodbank to everyone who helped with the Harvest Collection. So many people were involved – the Sunday Club youngsters brought donations, as did many members of the congregation, lots of willing helpers brought everything down from the church to the hall where another team packed 331Kg (the equivalent of 788 meals) into crates, ready for the Foodbank to pick

up the next day. In addition, lots of people opted to give money and of the £1027 donated, more than £500 was subject to Gift Aid. A wonderful, generous response to help people in West Lothian.

We will keep you posted about the next collection!

Worship with a difference

Worship can take many more forms than the traditional Church of Scotland 'hymn sandwich'. October's Outdoor Church reflected on harvests, both seasonal and personal, while creating an autumnal collage. The recent contemporary evening service re-located to the church for reflective prayer. The station pictured was focused on prayers for the world: others included thanksgiving, confession, and letting go.

This month, why not come and try some stargazing with Outdoor Church (**meeting at the Cross at the later time of 4pm on Sunday 12th**)? The Contemporary Service returns to the Kirk Hall at **6:30pm on Sunday 26th**, but make sure to come early for a cuppa and a chat!



Messy Church and More

Youth work continues apace at St Michaels: our next Messy Church is on 4 November - learning about manna in the wilderness. Plans are afoot in Sunday Club and Bible Class for the Christmas Tree Festival themes for our respective trees, and after meetings with parents and YF teens alike we've had our long-awaited discussions on sex and sexuality within a Christian frame! (Ask Steve if you'd like to know more about this.) Now Nativity and Christmas start to loom larger still - but more on that in next month's newsletter.



CROSSWIND

Coming Soon: Crosswind

The November issue of Crosswind includes some stunning aerial images of work on the Crown of Thorns spire, plus articles from our partner churches in the future united parish: St Ninian's Craigmailen, Torphichen Kirk and Avonbridge. Coming your way later this month via your district elder or visitor.

Planning starts soon for the next issue, due out in February. If you'd like to contribute a piece, contact Myra Lawson [here](#) or on [01506 842634](tel:01506842634). The submission deadline will be 1st January: something to draw you away from endless festive TV repeats, perhaps?



Invite the Parish for Christmas

Every year, St Michael's people take short walks all round Linlithgow to deliver over 4,000 Christmas cards to houses in our parish. Could you help out this year?

The cards are bundled up by street. All you need to do is take one or more bundles and drop them through the letterboxes in the designated area, at a time that suits you. A typical bundle takes no more than half an hour to deliver.

While you may not get your 10,000 daily steps this way, you will have the satisfaction of helping to take Christmas greetings to each house, and to invite the whole community to celebrate the true 'reason for the season'. Please contact [John Reid](#) to offer your help.

Wanted: Your Photos!

This year, the photography Church group plan to display 'favourite places' on their entry in the Festival of Christmas Trees. They'd love to include **your** photos of some favourite places. Prints should be 6" x 4" with a note on the back of the location and date. Please forward prints by **Sunday 26th November** to Sheila Musgrave: Sheila will be on the welcome team at the church doors every Sunday this month, or you can email her [here](#).

The Christmas Tree Festival will cast its magical spell over the church from Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd December. Full details on the flyer.

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FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER | 10AM-7PM
SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER | 10AM-7PM
SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER | 12NOON-7PM

Quiet Hour: 10-11am | Saturday 2nd Dec

Adult: £5. Child: £3. U5: free
Family: £10 (2 adults, 2 children)

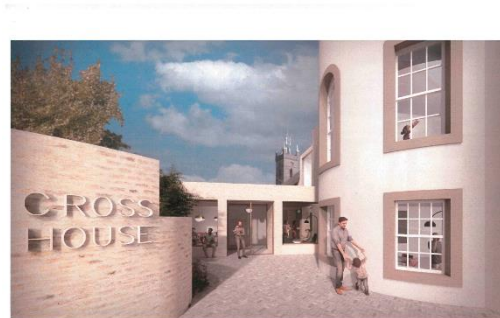
Tickets sold at door. Cash & Card payments accepted.
All profits raised will donated to Quiet Waters.

Recognised as a Scottish Charity No. SC016185.

Crown Work Continues

Work is progressing well with the repairs to our Crown of Thorns spire. All the old cladding has been removed and as you can see the rotten timber sections are being cut out and new timber spliced in with epoxy resin adhesives, held in place by carbon fibre rods (and temporary wooden battens!). Excitingly, the contractor is also now starting to fix the new gold cladding.

However the recent bad weather has been delaying the work, and it is now unlikely to be completed until late December or early January.



Aspire Linlithgow: Stage 2

So far, the Aspire Linlithgow campaign has mostly worked on fundraising for the Crown of Thorns repair work. With that largely completed, our Fundraising Team are turning their attention to resourcing the plans to transform Cross House into a warm and welcoming community hub and to address fabric issues in the church building – water problems amongst others.

With a potential price tag for Cross House of over £3 million, they will primarily seek to attract major grant funding from sources such as the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). Fundraising Team leader Alan Miller says “The process of gaining NLHF funding is very involved and lengthy – but if we can win their support, others are likely to follow”.

Look out for more details in February’s Crosswind.



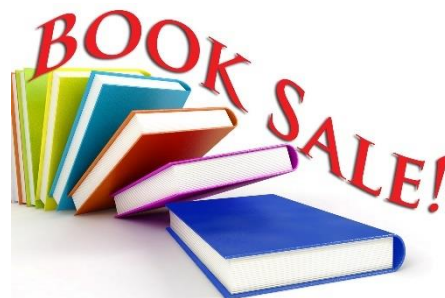
Service of Memory and Thanksgiving

A reminder that this service takes place in the church on **Saturday 4th November at 10am**. It’s a special time to remember and give thanks for loved ones who have died.

Anyone grieving a loss of any kind will be welcome at the service itself, and for refreshments after the service.

Buy a Book

Another option this Saturday morning is our latest book sale for Aspire Linlithgow, in the Kirk Hall from 10am-12:30pm. "Book sale" doesn't really do justice to the range of CDs, DVDs, jigsaws and games that are also available. Make a donation (by card or cash) and take what you want.



Occasionally @St.Michael's

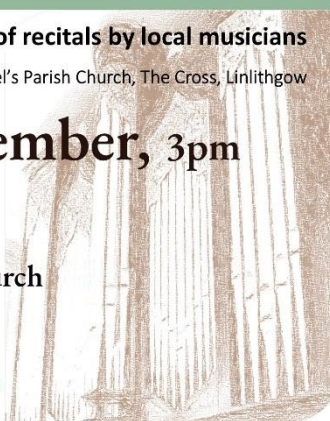


A series of recitals by local musicians
in St. Michael's Parish Church, The Cross, Linlithgow

Sunday 26th November, 3pm

Dr John Willmet
Organist of St Michael's Parish Church

Admission free,
donations invited for upkeep of the church organ



Organ Spectacular

Our own organist, Dr John Willmet, takes centre stage as he plays a solo recital at the next Occasionally@St Michael's recital on **Sunday 26th November at 3pm.**

Alongside other German and English composers, John's wide-ranging programme will include a Fantasia by Mozart and will conclude with Bach's mighty Fugue in Eb major. It's often referred to as the 'St Anne' Fugue as the start of the

main theme closely resembles the hymn tune of that name (think "O God, our help in ages past"). What Bach makes of this theme, in a piece he composed 'for the recreation of the spirit', is stunning and well worth an hour of your Sunday afternoon.

Pray Every Day

Sunday

Thinking of Israel and the Palestinian Territories, pray that those wounded would be healed, those displaced would receive food and shelter and that those bereaved would be comforted. Pray for an end to the conflict, and for wisdom and strength for those working for a settlement.

Monday

Pray for the ongoing problems in Morocco and Libya in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and floods.

Tuesday

Pray for our long-term partners in Chogoria and Mulanje. Pray that their work would be well supported and resourced and will continue to be a blessing to many.

Wednesday

Give thanks for peoples' generosity at our Harvest Festival which will benefit the West Lothian Food Bank. Pray for the volunteers at the Food Bank and for those who use it.

Thursday

Give thanks for those who volunteer with groups in the church, and pray for them. In particular give thanks for those who work to keep children and vulnerable adults safe in all we do.



Friday

Pray for the Crosswind team who work tirelessly to produce our magazine. Pray for those in the congregation for whom this is now their main source of information and contact with the life of the church.

Saturday

Pray for the festival of Christmas Trees from 1- 3 December. Give thanks for those who organise it. Pray that many will come. This is a wonderful opportunity to attract people to the church who do not normally attend.

One for the Diary

Remembrance Sunday Service

Our Remembrance Sunday service will take place in the church on **Sunday 12 November at 10.50am**. Please be seated in the church for 10.45am.



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Let Us Forget



Holy Communion, Sunday 26 November 2023 at 10am

Our next quarterly Communion service takes place in the church on Sunday 26 November at 10am.

For reasons of health and safety, there will be no common cup. Participants will be served portions of bread and wine in individual glasses.

We also have Holy Communion in the Kirk Hall at 3pm with Rev Thom Riddell. Again, participants will be served portions of bread and wine in individual glasses.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP



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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 26 November**, in the Kirk Hall. Come early for a cuppa and a chat!

If you are not able to attend in person, our main church 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

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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