



St Michael's
Linlithgow

Welcome to St Michael's Newsletter!



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Rev Dr Liam Fraser

A message from your minister

Hello everyone

In my last message to you, I spoke of the need in these difficult times of not standing still, but adapting to the changed needs of our community.

In this newsletter, we see some of the ways in which we are trying to respond to our context by reaching out to Linlithgow and the wider area. We are delighted to announce that our new Pioneer Worker Lorraine Orr has accepted our invitation to join the St Michael's team, and help us reach those groups we are currently not reaching. We are also trying to build upon our partnership with West Lothian Foodbank by working with local primary schools, and holding a number of giving drives.

In the months to come, we will be coming to you with more opportunities for us to bless Linlithgow together, and develop our ministries to the town.

For now, however, may God bless you, your family and friends.

All good wishes
Liam

Introducing our new Pioneer and Outreach Worker



Following recent interviews, we're delighted that Lorraine Orr has accepted the post of Pioneer and Outreach Worker with St Michael's. Subject to PVG verification, she will start in post early in November.

Hi

I'm Lorraine Orr, but a lot of people from Linlithgow will know me as Lorraine Kidd. My husband Chris and I were born and brought up in Linlithgow. We were married in St Michael's in 2012 and our wee girl Katie was christened here in 2017. I have been a member of St Michael's since I was 15 years old and have previously been crèche leader, Sunday school helper and YF helper.

I have been involved in the town's community projects for as long as I can remember (Gala Day, LYPP and Guides to name a few).

For the last 2 and half years I have worked for St John's Church as their Children and Families Worker in the town. Previous to that I worked in the Church of Scotland offices at 121 George Street: that included time working on "Church without Walls" (Fresh Expressions).

I am really looking forward to the 2030 vision and being part of this journey.

Look out for Liam's article in the forthcoming issue of Crosswind about the role of the Pioneer and Outreach Worker.



Chris Gunstone

The Linlithgow Peace Garden

The recent Black Bitch magazine included a proposal for the Linlithgow Peace Garden. First imagined by Rev Stewart Gillan and others after visiting the Middle East, it was initially to be in the Manse Garden at the top of Kirkgate.

Movement to the Rose Garden will maximise access for all and help preserve the Rose Garden itself, following a planned refurbishment.

It also means that Liam's garden will be undisturbed for future vegetable growing and BBQs!

The plan is for the community to take over the care of the Burgh Halls garden, in place of Council support which is severely restricted by budget constraints. This will require fund raising and a gardening team, but gives the opportunity of involving younger people (following Royal Horticultural Society guidance) to support improving mental health and counter loneliness.

Please have a look at the Black Bitch article and contact me on chris.gunstone@btinternet.com to let me know what you think.



Allan Robertson

World Polio Day 2020

World Polio Day is held on 24 October every year to increase awareness of this terrible disease which can kill or cause severe disability due to paralysis. Rotary International, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1985 for the worldwide vaccination of children. Thirty-five years on, and now only two countries report cases of the wild polio

virus – Afghanistan and Pakistan. Rotary's End Polio Now programme will continue until these countries are free of the disease.

To mark World Polio Day in Linlithgow, in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange we will be illuminating St Michael's Crown of Thorns in purple, so look out for a subtle change in its appearance in late October. Why purple? Because of the purple-coloured dye painted on the little finger of a child to signify they have received the potentially life-saving polio vaccine.



AUTUMN/WINTER APPEALS



Fiona Duke

Christian Aid Autumn Appeal

When crisis arrived on our doorsteps this year, neighbourly love helped us through the shortages of flour, bread and toilet paper and many of us were worried for family and friends. However, around the world, panic-buying was far from the only cause of problems. Millions face extreme shortages because huge areas of land had the worst locust swarms in many years meaning virtually no harvest, while others experienced severe flooding, civil war, extreme poverty and homelessness. Covid-19 on top of this has meant many do

not have access to health care services. Often the poor and the persecuted are the first to suffer - and to suffer disproportionately.

Christian Aid usually runs a door to door appeal in May but were unable to this year because of Covid-19. They are now seeking to make up much-needed funds. As we looked out for the vulnerable in our communities this year, so Christian Aid are running an Autumn Appeal to help the vulnerable worldwide. Could you and your neighbours help these communities around the world to help their neighbours? You can help by donating at www.ChristianAid.org/autumnappeal



Chris Collen

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

The Shoebox appeal is going ahead this year. It is astonishing how many churches and organisations have said they want to be part of it this year, and while the numbers will probably not be the same as previous years there should still be a good number. There are fewer shoeboxes around at present but a drawstring bag is just as acceptable.

I will have the van in Cross House Car Park from 9.30 to 10.30am, and again from 7.00pm to 8.00pm, on **Monday 2nd November** for anyone who has prepared a box or bag. For further details please view <https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/> or contact me on **07920 422828** or **01506 844245** or email chrisacollen@gmail.com

Many thanks

Chris Collen

AUTUMN/WINTER APPEALS



Alison Murray

West Lothian Foodbank

Many thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to the Harvest collection for West Lothian Foodbank on Sunday 19 October. We gathered just over 500kg of food which will provide about 1190 meals for people in West Lothian. In addition, there were financial donations of £235.

Before Christmas, we would like to hold another collection. The Foodbank aims to help our clients to have a Christmas meal - we will put a list of suggested items on the St Michael's website and hope you might be willing to assist again.

We will be back at the Cross House car park door from 2-4pm on Sunday 29th November and hope to see you then. If anyone has a donation but is unable to come along, please phone me on 07759 127048.





Alison Miller

Big Quiz Night

The third Tear Fund Big Quiz Night will take place online this year, all over the country, on Saturday 14th November.

St Michael's will host the event starting at 7.00pm for 7.20pm. You can sign up on your own (and join a team on Zoom), or with a team at your home from your household.

Please give online - suggested minimum donation £5 per person.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Stmichaelsparish2020>

For information contact Alison at 01506 844992 or connect@stmichaels-parish.org.uk.

Sunday Service and Chat



Our Sunday services continue on Facebook at 11am <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsparishlinlithgow/> and on YouTube from just after 11, available at <https://www.youtube.com/c/StMichaelsLinlithgow>.

Please join us afterwards for coffee and chat on Zoom!

The meeting ID: 550 085 9322

Password: kirkcoffee.

You'll be able to link direct from:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5500859322?pwd=U0lvbDFnUXdlY01lak0vNmVidjZkQT09>



Remember that the service is also available by phone.
Just dial 01506 306 036 and the audio recording of the service starts immediately.

Forthcoming Services in the church

Sunday 1 November, 2pm (booking required)

Service of Memory and Thanksgiving

There will be no Prayer & Reflection following this service

Sunday 8 November, 10.50am (strictly by invitation)

Remembrance Sunday 10.50am (all seated by 10.30am)

This service will be live-streamed on our church website

Sunday 15 November, 2pm (booking required)

Live Worship followed by

Prayer & Reflection at 3pm (booking not required for this service)

Sunday 29 November

Holy Communion will take place at 11.45 am with Rev Dr Liam Fraser and will be live streamed on the church [website](#). Have bread and wine or grape juice ready

2pm, Worship in the church (booking required)

3pm, Baptism (Family only)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Our friends at Linlithgow Community Development Trust produce an excellent Community News email every week.

You can sign up at <http://trust-linlithgow.org.uk/news/newsletter-subscription> to keep in touch with all sorts of information about what's happening in Linlithgow.

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