



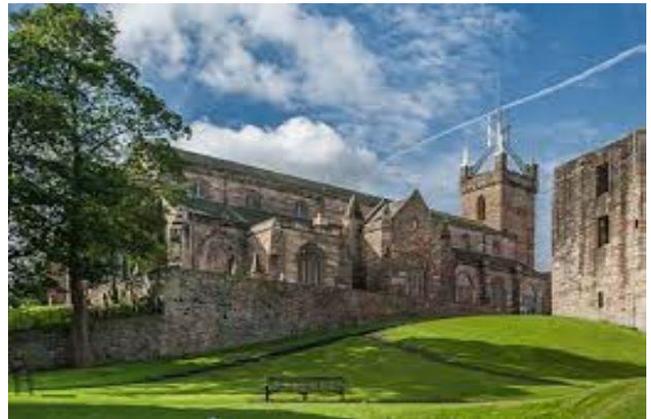
**ST.
MICHAEL'S**
Parish Church

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your first St Michael's Parish Church newsletter of 2024. What's new? - plenty! As always, the newsletter is bursting full of what's going on and how you can be part of it.

Thank you for all the positive feedback about the newsletter. We've introduced a puzzle feature this month. Have fun and tell us how you get on!

Four into One



Great progress is being made in working out proposals for bringing together our four churches – Avonbridge, St Michael's, St Ninian's Craigmalen and Torphichen Kirk – into one united parish by the end of this year. The fundamental plan is for all current places of worship to continue, with a ministry team of Liam plus another full-time minister and Thom along with another ordained local minister. But there are 1,001 details to put in place.

Along with this month's Crosswind magazine, district elders and visitors are distributing a Q&A update on the proposals and how we will all get to have a say. You can also access the update on the church website news page [here](#)



Crosswind

The latest issue of our ever-impressive quarterly magazine Crosswind is now out. You can now download a full-colour copy from the church website [here](#). Where else can you read about everything from youth work to the Guild's Christmas night out – complete with impromptu nativity! (See picture).

Could you write a piece for Crosswind? Contact editor Myra Lawson [here](#) ASAP to book your space in the May issue (deadline for submission 1st April) or to discuss an idea for the future.

Explore the Greater Outdoors

Outdoor church is now welcoming folk from all the churches in our future Union. We are meeting on the first Sunday of the month at 2pm. Current plans include a Lent theme at Muiravonside on 3rd March, and an Easter focus at Torphichen on 7th April. Car sharing would be an excellent idea for getting around: for more info and to arrange or offer car shares contact Alison on 07882 912068 or here by [email](#)

Outdoor Church Linlithgow



Girls' Brigade: The Place to Bee

The 1st Linlithgow Girls' Brigade Company are always delighted to welcome new members to join in the fun with crafts and activities, games and songs. They meet during term-time in Longcroft Halls from 6:15-7:30pm for Explorers (P1-P7) and 6:30-7:45pm for S1 and up in the Brigaders. Girls are very welcome to 'come and try'. For more info, parents can email the company [here](#) or contact the captain, Andrea Smith, on 07572 686588.

Pray Every Day

Monday: pray for peace and relief for those suffering in Gaza and Israel, and for changed mindsets to seek peace and justice in place of conflict.

Tuesday: give thanks for progress in the discussions about the union of our four churches Avonbridge, St Michaels, St Ninians Craigmailen and Torphichen. Pray those involved will know God's guidance for our joint future.

Wednesday: pray for those involved in the appointment of a new outreach worker, so that the most suitable person will be found and appointed.

Thursday: pray for the safety of those working on the church spire and for the successful conclusion of the work.



Friday: pray for the bereavement team to know God's wisdom and compassion in working with those who have suffered loss.

Saturday: pray for those managing our finances, especially in view of the challenges involved in merging the administration of the four churches.

Sunday: pray for our ministry team to know God's presence and guidance as they prepare and lead worship.



Welcoming Growth

It's great to hear that there are more of us at St Michael's these days: our membership grew to 1,203 at the end of 2023 from 1,190 the previous year. With the contemporary evening service currently running weekly along with the options of morning services at 10am in the church or 09:45am at Springfield Primary, there are plenty of ways to worship.

If you're attending regularly but aren't yet a member, speak to Liam or any member of a welcome team to find out more. And speaking of welcoming folk into church – if you have a friendly manner and enjoy meeting people, please get in touch with our Session Clerk John Reid [here](#) to find out how you could get involved. Your smile and kindly words could make all the difference to someone coming along for the first time.



Twenty Years of Fairtrade

January saw a special celebration take place when supporters of Linlithgow Fairtrade Partnership marked the town's 20 years as a Fairtrade Town. Cake was consumed! As has been the case throughout these 2 decades, St Michael's remains a strong supporter of Fairtrade. But we can all play our part every time we shop, by choosing products with the Fairtrade kitemark that shows suppliers and the environment have both received a fair deal.

Woolly Wonders

If like me, you can't even cast off, you can still help our knitting group. The group are very happy to receive donations ('cast-offs', perhaps?) of those spare balls of wool that are lurking in your cupboards: they'll transform them into lovely garments and blankets. And please pass on news of any knitting projects that the group could support, whether it's hats for premature babies, woolly elephants for the Sick Children's Hospital or anything else. Contact Mairi McFarlane [here](#) to discuss donations or ideas.





Spire Looking Up

Work on St Michael's Crown of Thorns spire continues to progress despite the challenges of the winter weather. Thanks to the efforts and ingenuity of Nigel Foster and his team from ADPC Property Care, woodwork repairs are now complete. Main contractors Mathesons are working hard to ensure the new cladding seals precisely as they fit it, so that it can stand firm for decades to come. They now hope to finish by the end of this

month, leaving the scaffolding to come down in March.

That means we should be able to resume Open Church 7 days a week from Easter. Could you help to welcome visitors and point them to the available resources in the church? Contact David Timperley [here](#) for more info.

Occasionally Upcoming

Do you think of the recorder as that tootly plastic thing people play at school and then never touch again? Come to hear the Arcari Recorder Ensemble on Sunday 10th March at 3pm and prepare to think again! Entry by donations towards the upkeep of the church organ.

The Occasionally concerts are going from strength to strength: on 4th February, a hand-picked vocal group performed a mixed programme of sacred music with beguiling beauty of sound, sensitively accompanied on the piano by Alex Christie.

Occasionally @St.Michael's

A series of recitals by local musicians

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



Sunday 10th March 3pm



ARCARA

Recorder Ensemble

Admission free, donations invited for upkeep of the church organ

Eleemosynar

Puzzle Time

Kirk Session recently appointed our elder Ian Fowell to the role of **Eleemosynar** – not something out of Dickens, but an old Scots word that here means he's taken on the role of secretary of the Linlithgow Parish Trust.

Here's your puzzle: what's the best **anagram** you can make by re-arranging the letters of the word 'Eleemosynar'? Surely you can improve on the newsletter editor's first effort: 'Ye are lemons'... Send your ideas to Alan [here](#) and we'll print the most entertaining ones next month!

Join us for Worship



Our next quarterly Communion service takes place in the church on **Sunday 25 February 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



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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 during term time. You are invited to enter the school hall by the main door.

Our contemporary evening services now take place weekly at 6:30pm 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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