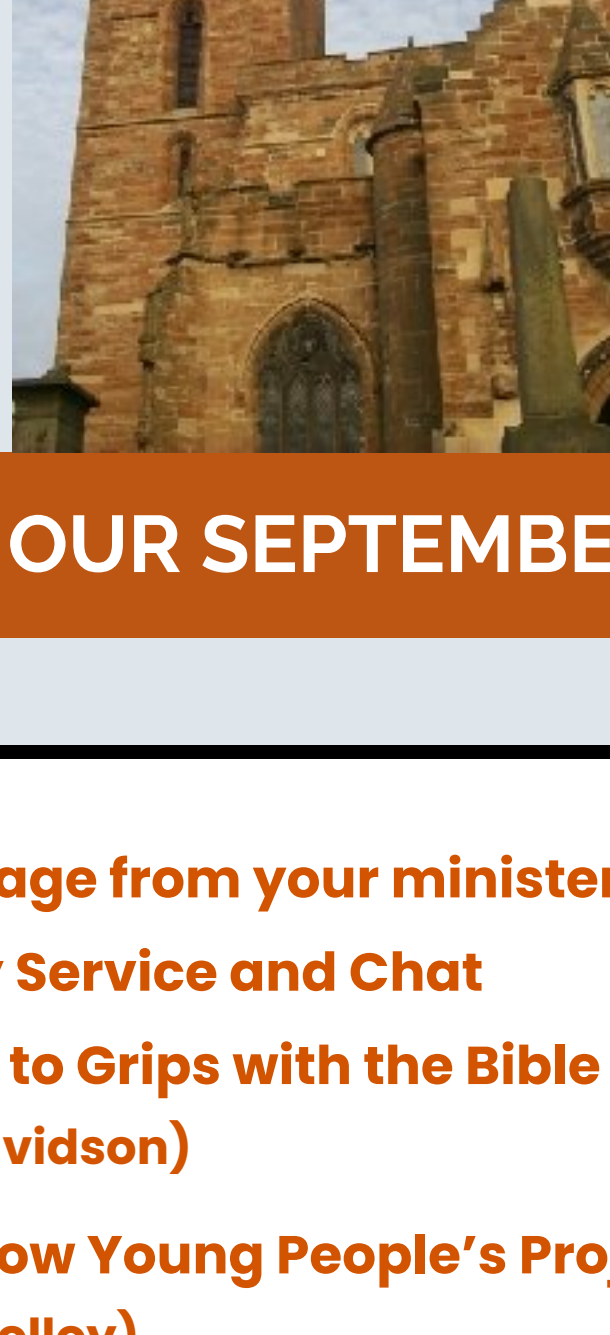


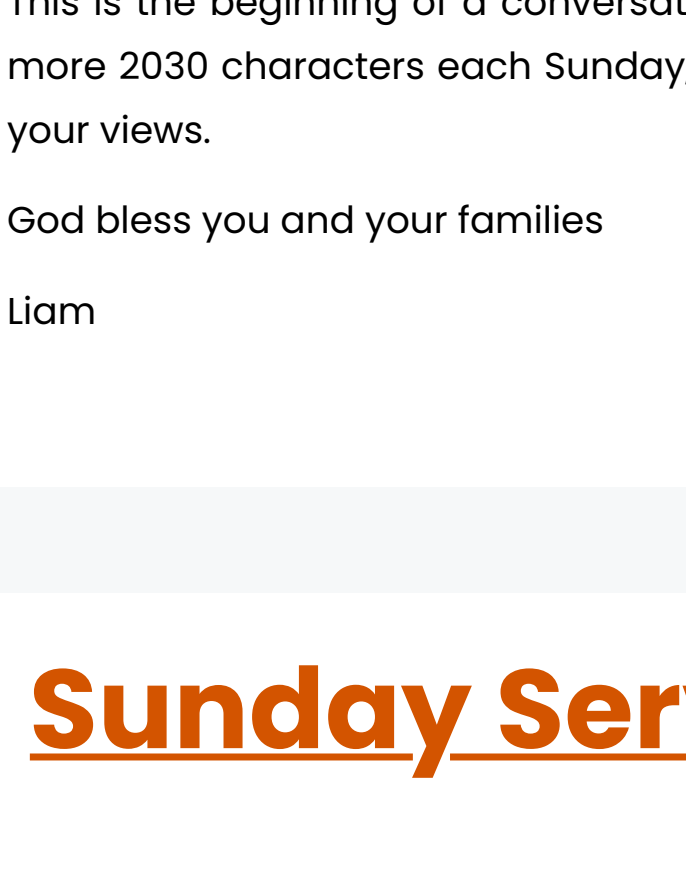


Welcome to St Michael's Newsletter!



WHAT'S IN OUR SEPTEMBER EDITION?

- **A message from your minister**
- **Sunday Service and Chat**
- **Getting to Grips with the Bible**
(Paul Davidson)
- **Linlithgow Young People's Project (LYPP)**
(Rona Molloy)
- **A London Marathon with a Difference for LYPP**
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- **Property Update** (Jim Rae)
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- **A Letter from our Stewardship and Finance Team Leader** (Anne Law)
- **Care and Prayer** (Tom Brown)
- **Outreach and Winter Appeals**
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 - Blythswood Shoebox Appeal (Chris Collen)
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Rev Dr Liam Fraser

A message from your minister

Hello everyone

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

It has now been six months since the start of the lockdown that has changed life entirely for us. Despite hopes that regulations might continue to be eased, we are now looking at months of continuing restrictions, until such time as a vaccine can be found.

At a time such as this, it is tempting to stop any thinking about the future, and focus only on the day to day. Yet a time of crisis is a time of opportunity, and a time for bold thinking. The virus has demonstrated the need - already clear - for St Michael's to adapt to the times we live in, and, to that end, we are now in the midst of our 2030 Vision series, hearing from our future neighbours what changes St Michael's have made by 2030.

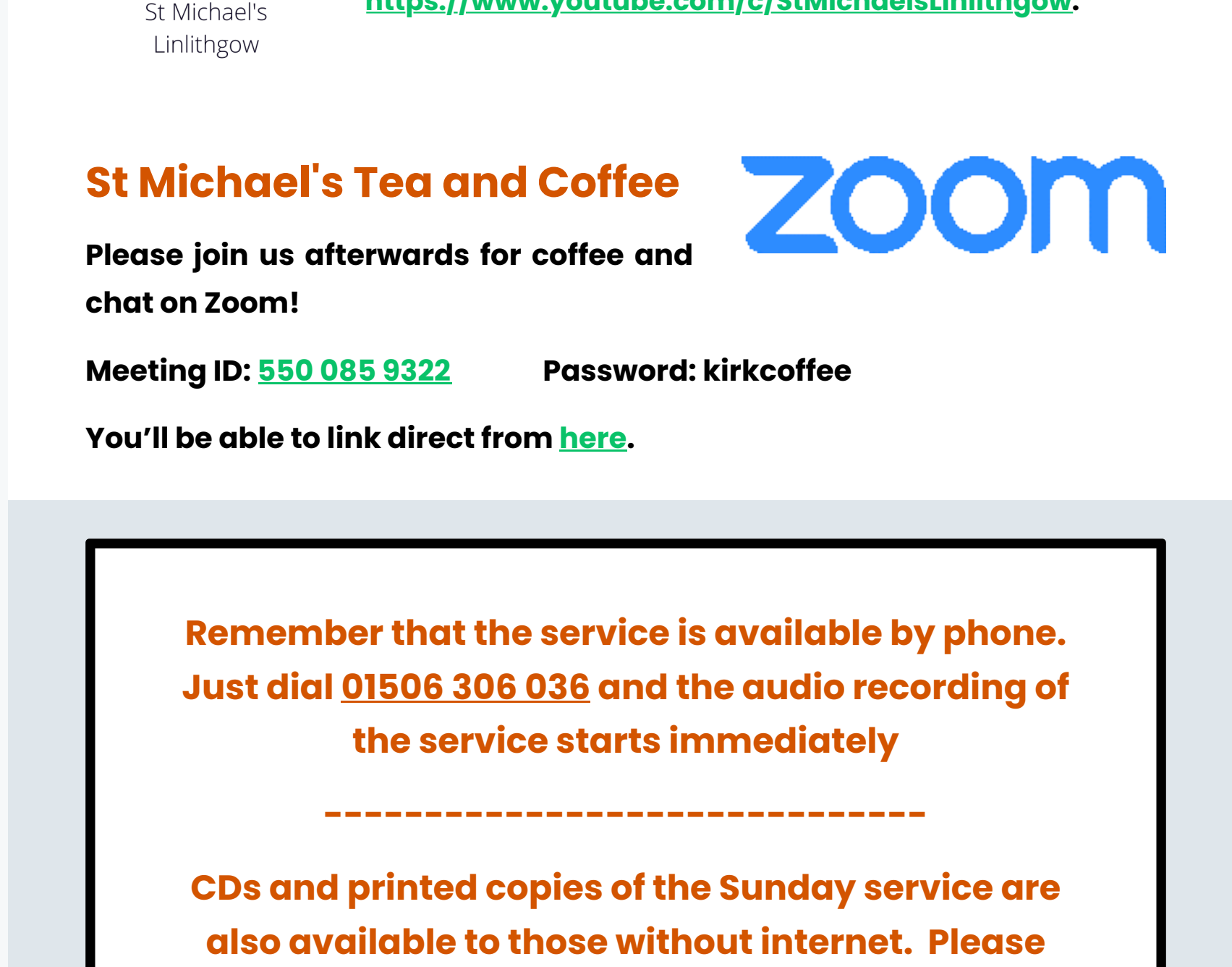
This is the beginning of a conversation that includes all of us, so watch out for more 2030 characters each Sunday, as well as further consultations looking for your views.

God bless you and your families

Liam

Sunday Service and Chat

Although bookings for the live worship service this Sunday at 2pm have now closed, we hope to have further live worship times on 11 and 25 October and fortnightly thereafter.



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>.

St Michael's Tea and Coffee

Please join us afterwards for coffee and chat on Zoom!

Meeting ID: **550 085 9322**

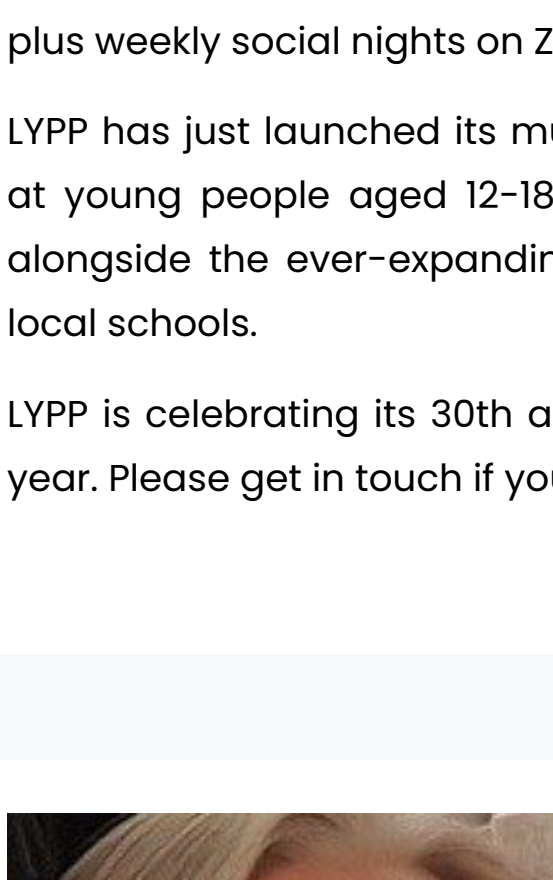
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You'll be able to link direct from [here](#).



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

CDs and printed copies 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



Paul Davidson

Getting to Grips with the Bible

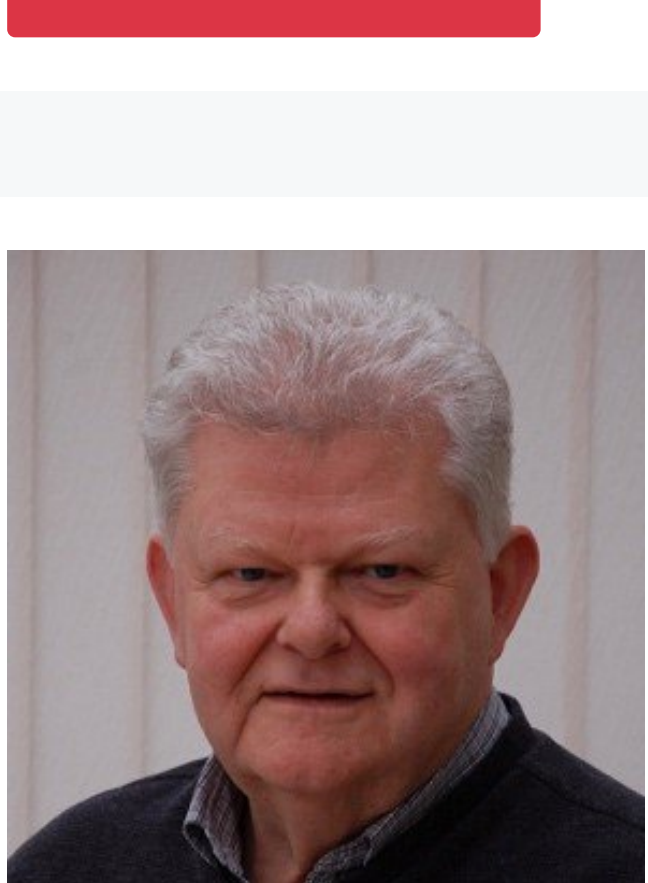
Ever wanted to spend time with God every day, but didn't know where to start? Here are two ideas which are easy to use - try them and see what you think. And if you find them useful, please let me know!

Our Daily Bread - [Click here](#)

These are the notes that were available in the church building before lockdown. They give a verse, then some thoughts and a couple of questions on how it relates to us - useful if you want an idea for something to mull over during the day.

Word Live - [Click here](#)

These are slightly more in depth studies, working daily through a book of the Bible with a short reading followed by an explanation of the text. These are great if you want to spend a bit more time in understanding what the Bible means.



Rona Molloy

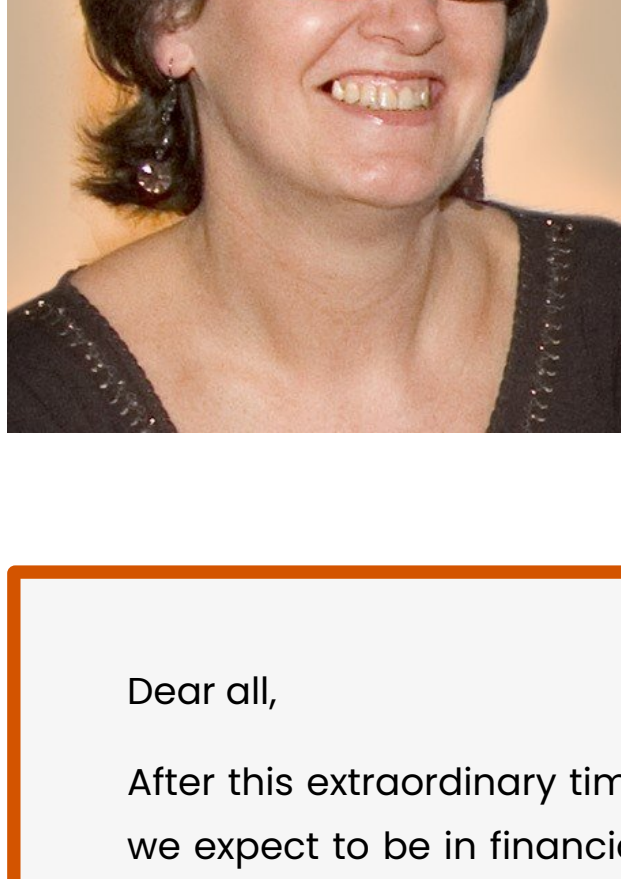
Linlithgow Young People's Project (LYPP)

The wonderful youth workers at LYPP have found all sorts of innovative ways to continue their vital work since March. During lockdown they created fantastic daily challenges on YouTube, delivered more than 200 'boredom bags' to the doors of young people in Linlithgow and Bridgend, and partnered with 'Linlithgow Family' to distribute seeds to 'grow your own' vegetables and herbs. They also ran a 6-week virtual summer programme.

Street work has now resumed in Linlithgow and Bridgend on Friday afternoons, plus weekly social nights on Zoom.

LYPP has just launched its much-anticipated counselling service. This is aimed at young people aged 12-18 and is provided by a trained counsellor. It runs alongside the ever-expanding Mentoring programme offered to pupils in our local schools.

LYPP is celebrating its 30th anniversary and is hoping to raise £30k for its 30th year. Please get in touch if you'd like to help!



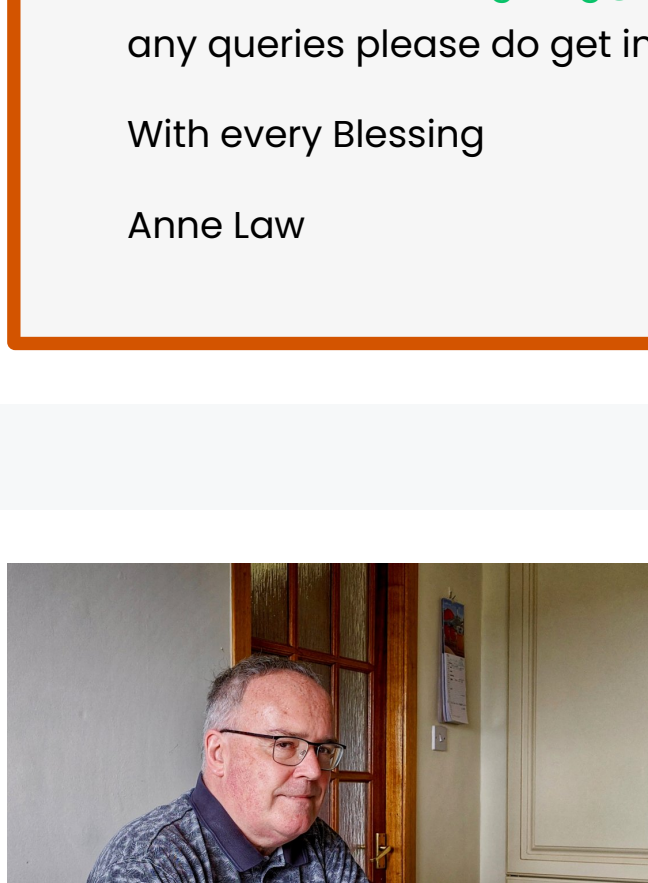
Tracy Curle

A London Marathon with a Difference for LYPP

2020 has brought some dramatic changes and restrictions for us all in terms of family, education, employment and home life. Young people have been hit particularly hard, some of them experiencing bereavement and other traumatic experiences during lockdown, and many are needing support as they now adjust to being back at school with all the changes that has brought.

On October 4th 2020 I will be running the Virgin Money Virtual London Marathon to help LYPP in their campaign to raise £30k in their 30th anniversary year. I'll run 26.2 miles around Linlithgow and the surrounding area - 2 x 10 mile loops between Linlithgow Leisure Centre and Philipstoun and one final loop to the Park Bistro for the final 6.2 miles. All donations towards the amazing work LYPP do with young people in and around Linlithgow will be very gratefully received

Donate



Jim Rae

Property Update

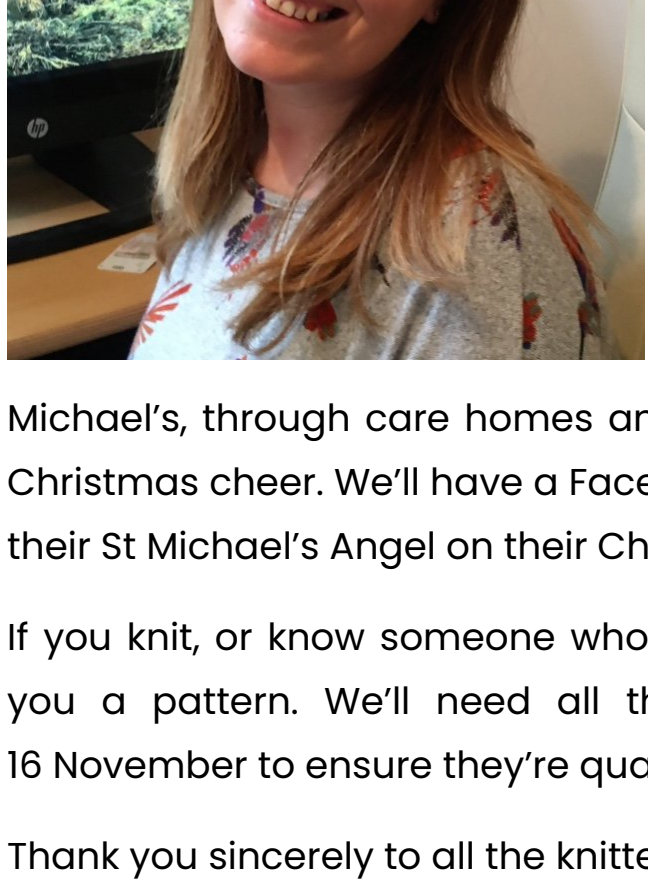
Early indications are that the repair to the Crown of Thorns may exceed £100k. Discussions with the manufacturer and installing contractor are at an advanced stage and a cost will be available soon.

The internal roof survey of the church north aisle, including the removal of loose stone particles and debris, has been completed. The church organ was encased in plastic sheeting to prevent ingress of dust into the internal workings. A resin injection procedure on one area of vault carving that requires stone fixing and stabilising has been recommended and is being considered.

First phase repairs and tuning to the church organ are scheduled to start on the 12 October for a five day period. Further work will be required and scheduled for 2021

Digital Doors Open Day

St Michael's participated in the recent Doors Open Day 2020 by uploading a short film about the church building and its significance. You can still find the virtual guided tour at <https://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/places/west-lothian/st-michaels-parish-church/>. Much of the footage will look quite familiar from the Sunday morning pre-service run-in, but Liam has added an introduction.



Anne Law

A Letter from our Stewardship and Finance Team Leader

Dear all,

After this extraordinary time, you will not be surprised to learn that we expect to be in financial deficit at the end of the year, possibly to the tune of £36,000 (for comparison, our budgeted income for 2020 was £344,000).

Our income has been reduced in certain specific areas as you can imagine:

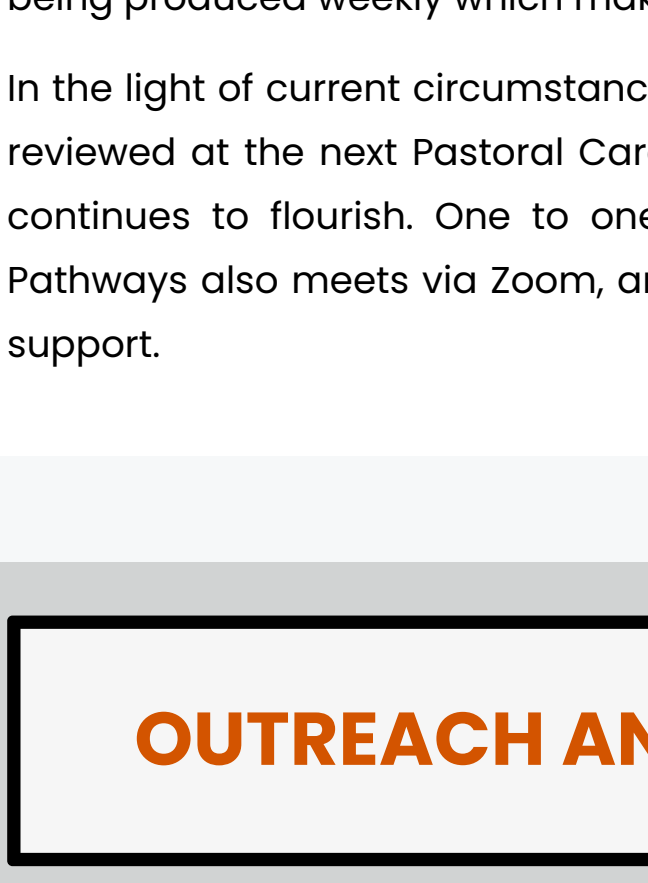
- Offerings are forecast to be £44,000 below budget. Standing orders are holding up well and cash/envelopes falling away badly. Fortunately, many people who previously put cash or envelopes in the bag have moved, whether temporarily or permanently, to standing orders
- Wedding income is projected to fall by £5,500
- Rental income for Cross House is estimated to fall by £12,500

We have been monitoring expenditure very closely. Our Ministry & Mission contribution to the national church is our largest expense and remains unchanged. Jim Rae has reforecast the property budget and injected considerable savings for this year, but we know we face significant upcoming expenditure including on the Crown of Thorns.

We are in the fortunate position of having reserves, which we will have to use to break even at the end of 2020. We are very grateful that so much of our income comes monthly through standing orders: if you would like to give by this method, please contact Tim Brown (842914 or finance@stmichaels-parish.org.uk) or Andrew Jones (842914 or giving@stmichaels-parish.org.uk). If you have any queries please do get in touch with me.

With every Blessing

Anne Law



Tom Brown

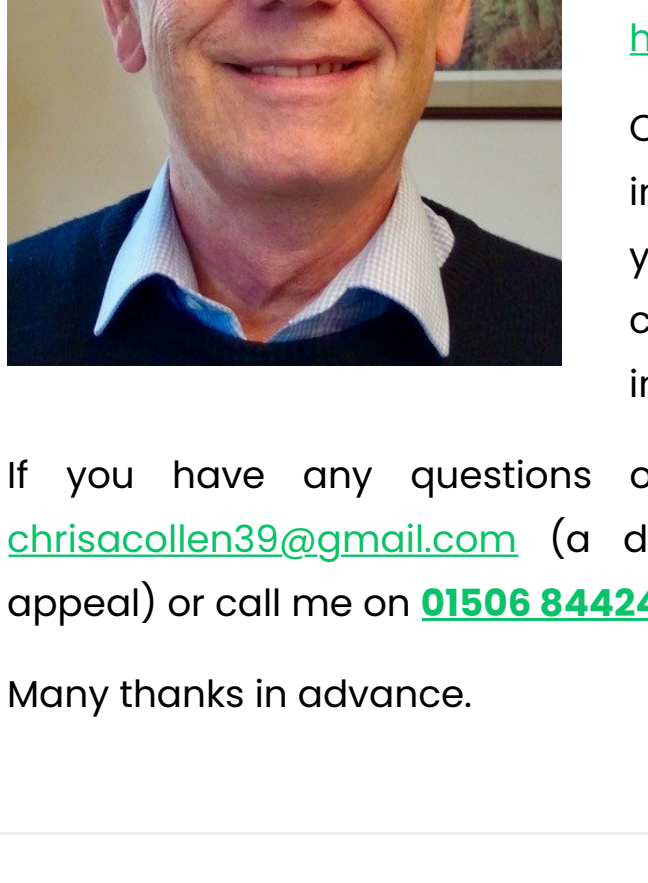
Care and Prayer

The Pastoral Care Team has continued to function during the Covid-19 lockdown. Pastoral Visitors are maintaining contact with those they visit, mostly by telephone.

The Prayer Ministry continues despite the inability to meet face to face. With the Church not being open the usual facility for receiving prayer requests is not available, but people are welcome to make requests known through the office or via their elder. The prayer calendar is now being produced weekly which makes it more up to date.

In the light of current circumstances, the provision of Home Communion will be reviewed at the next Pastoral Care Team. The bereavement ministry, however, continues to flourish. One to one counselling (by Zoom) continues; Positive Pathways also meets via Zoom, and has started a WhatsApp group for mutual support.

OUTREACH AND WINTER APPEALS



Trish Archibald

Knitted Christmas Angels

Back in February we asked for volunteers to knit little Angels for this coming Christmas. With the way life has changed since then, perhaps our Angels will be of even greater importance now.

We plan to send our little Angels out to our town with love from all of us at St Michael's, through care homes and schools, and delivery to people in need of Christmas cheer. We'll have a Facebook page where people can post a photo of their St Michael's Angel on their Christmas tree.

If you knit, or know someone who does, please get in touch and we can send you a pattern. We'll need all the Angels posted to the church office by 16 November to ensure they're quarantined before packaging.

Thank you sincerely to all the knitters making this Christmas outreach possible.



Chris Collen

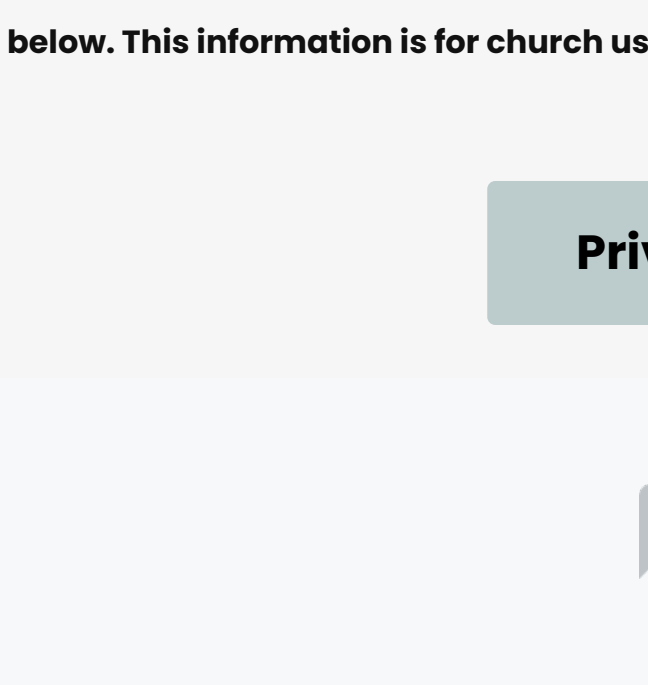
Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

Despite the current problems Blythswood Care are going ahead with the 2020 Shoebox appeal. Details are available at <https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/>.

Current plans are that boxes will be collected in central Linlithgow at the end of October. If you have larger quantities they can be collected from your house at that time. Further information will be available in mid October.

If you have any questions or want leaflets please contact me on chrisacollen39@gmail.com (a dedicated email address for the shoebox appeal) or call me on **01506 844245** or **07920 422 828**.

Many thanks in advance.



Marshall Green

Bethany Christian Trust Overnight Welcome Centre

Over several evenings last winter, 21 volunteers from St. Michaels bought, cooked and served a 2 course meal for more than 300 homeless of Edinburgh. This coming winter, we currently have a total of only 7 volunteers. Could you help?

What's involved? Starting about 6pm a team of 6-7 travel to kitchens in central Edinburgh where we prepare and cook up to 60 meals. These are then transported to a nearby hotel (sponsored by Edinburgh City Council) to which the homeless are invited/brought for the night. Wearing full PPE our volunteers serve the meals to the homeless in their rooms between 9.30-10.30. The team returns to the kitchens, pack up and head back to Linlithgow, tired but fulfilled.

Please contact marshallgreen1@gmail.com for more info and to offer your assistance.

ST. MICHAELS PARISH CHURCH OFFICE

CROSS HOUSE, LINLITHGOW
United Kingdom

St Michael's Parish Church would like to keep in touch from time to time with newsletters and updates but only in ways that work for you. If you would prefer not to continue to receive these emails, please click this link

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