

LINLITHGOW & AVON VALLEY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your April newsletter from Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church of Scotland! This month, we have strong threads of local and global perspectives weaving together a diverse set of articles. As we head into the season where we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus – a 1st century man from an obscure Jewish village, yet also the saviour of the world – it's good to remember that our concerns as people of faith are both immediate and international. As the slogan has it – Think Global, Act Local!

Manses and Ministry

As Session Clerk Tom Costley explained in the February newsletter (available [here](#)), we have many steps to undertake toward appointing a second full-time minister. One of these is to decide which of our two currently unoccupied manses – in Linlithgow and Torphichen – will be the manse for the new minister and family. (Church rules mean we can't leave the choice until later, or even let the new minister decide.)



Kirk Session on Tuesday 8th April considered a detailed report on the 2 manses. The report said each manse would, with some upgrading, be suitable in terms of accommodation and immediate environment; however, the Torphichen manse (pictured left / below) scored very high on questions of community presence and outreach. The recommendation was to retain Torphichen and to sell the manse in Philip Avenue, Linlithgow.

After a full debate, Session unanimously agreed the report. Once Presbytery approve the decision, work will begin to implement it.

Girls Brigade Thanks

The 1st Girls Brigade Company want to say a big thank-you to everyone who supported their coffee afternoon on 15 March. They were delighted to raise nearly £690 for company funds to help continue their work with girls from P1 up to S6.

The Company are currently enjoying their Easter holiday before resuming on Wednesday 23 April. Any girl of school age is very welcome to come along on a Wednesday night from 6.15-7.30pm for P1-7 and 6.30-7.45pm for S1 upwards. For more info please contact the Captain, Andrea Smith on [07572 686588](tel:07572686588), or email [here](#).





Opening Doors through Prayer

Last year, over 38 million Christians globally faced high levels of persecution & discrimination because of their faith. This could include being driven out of their homes, being attacked, imprisoned and rejected by family.

[Open Doors](#) is a charity that produces information and inspirational stories, and supports many persecuted Christians across the World. We have copies of their

World Watch Map available in every worship centre. While it's thought provoking and sobering, it is also witness to the transformational power of God and enables us, in prayer, to stand with fellow Christians across the world and make a difference.

An Astronaut Flew In...

Dr Kathy Sullivan – oceanographer, retired astronaut and global pioneer for women in science – landed on Monday 31st March for a whistlestop tour that included no fewer than four fundraising events for Aspire Linlithgow.



In just over 24 hours, Kathy addressed more than 500 people about her experiences from orbit to the very floor of the earth's oceans, linking them to St Michael's

role as the 'Challenger church' – the church whose great east window celebrates local scientist Charles Wyville Thomson and his key role in founding the science of oceanography.

The events have raised over £16,000 for Aspire Linlithgow's Project 600 campaign to put right major fabric issues in St Michael's Church. The fundraising team are aware there were some audibility issues during the Tuesday afternoon event in the church, and hope to have a full AV recording available shortly.



Pray Together - Online

An online prayer group that anyone in the parish can join will be starting after Easter. It will take place online on Mondays from 12.30-1pm. If you'd like to join in praying for the needs of our world locally and internationally, please email [here](#) for the Zoom link and for any further information.

Second Thursday of every month
SUNSHINE SING-ALONG
12noon – 13.30 in Kirk Hall
A warm welcome to anyone
with memory loss and their carer.
Light finger lunch and favourite songs



2nd Linlithgow Guides
Charity number SC053283

2nd Linlithgow Rangers
Charity number SC053282

Saturday 26th April 2025

**10am to 12noon
at
Cross House, Linlithgow**

Tickets: £5 adult, £2.50 child

**All proceeds to help fund Indoor Residential and Outdoor
Camping Trips in 2025**

TOCCATA LADIES CHOIR

PRESENTS
THEIR

SUMMER CONCERT

10TH MAY 7.30PM

St Michaels Church
Kirkgate, Linlithgow



Tickets:
Adults - £10
Under 16's - £5



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(CASH ONLY)
OR FROM CHOIR MEMBERS

www.toccataladieschoir.co.uk



Managing our Property Portfolio

Our new parish are custodians of a property portfolio of some thirteen properties, including A listed historic buildings, well-used church halls, and church manses – all of which need looking after. Fortunately, we have been blessed with every imaginable property-related skill amongst our willing congregation - and we need them all!



Under Donald Greig's leadership, our Property Team have lots to do including working out a long-term plan for heating St Michael's church, some further upgrades to St John's Hall in Torphichen, and dealing with the unexpected – if it's not a blocked drain at Longcroft Hall, it's bound to be a leak somewhere else. They're also managing ground maintenance across the parish with a new contractor, and if you're at Cross House Linlithgow in the next week or so, you'll definitely notice a bit more light there as the trees and shrubs have had their winter haircuts. If there's any issue you'd like the team to look at, email them [here](#).

Going Global - Locally

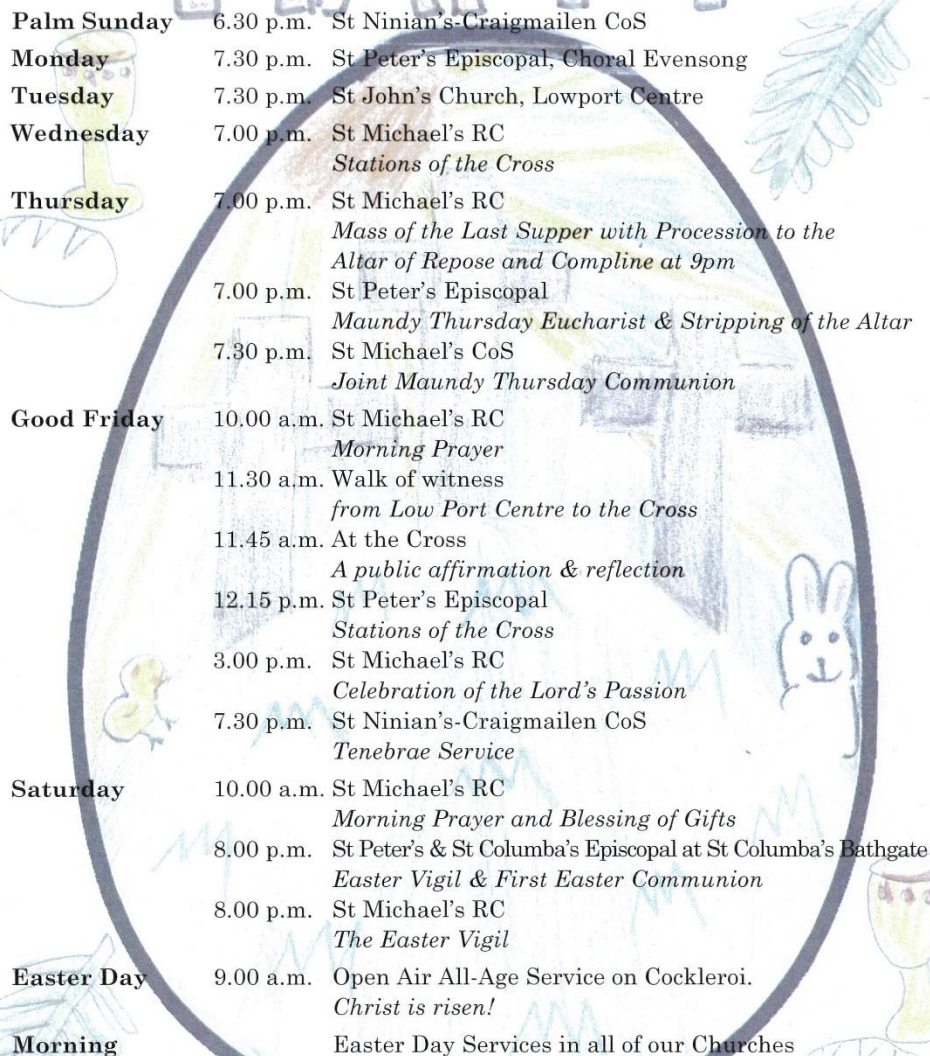


Rev Dr Junsoo Park at the Scottish Korean War Memorial

Former assistant at St Michael's, Rev Dr Junsoo Park, is moving back to Scotland to lead a congregation at the Newton Church in Danderhall, Midlothian. But the global links go even deeper as the church building has been bought by The Korean Presbyterian Church, and will be renamed Newton Presbyterian Church (John Ross Memorial) in recognition of the Scottish missionary who first translated the Bible into Korean.

Holy Week in Linlithgow

You are warmly invited by all of Linlithgow's Churches to attend this year's Holy Week Services, commencing Sunday 13 April 2025.



Palm Sunday	6.30 p.m.	St Ninian's-Craigmailen CoS
Monday	7.30 p.m.	St Peter's Episcopal, Choral Evensong
Tuesday	7.30 p.m.	St John's Church, Lowport Centre
Wednesday	7.00 p.m.	St Michael's RC <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Thursday	7.00 p.m.	St Michael's RC <i>Mass of the Last Supper with Procession to the Altar of Repose and Compline at 9pm</i>
	7.00 p.m.	St Peter's Episcopal <i>Maundy Thursday Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar</i>
	7.30 p.m.	St Michael's CoS <i>Joint Maundy Thursday Communion</i>
Good Friday	10.00 a.m.	St Michael's RC <i>Morning Prayer</i>
	11.30 a.m.	Walk of witness <i>from Low Port Centre to the Cross</i>
	11.45 a.m.	At the Cross <i>A public affirmation & reflection</i>
	12.15 p.m.	St Peter's Episcopal <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
	3.00 p.m.	St Michael's RC <i>Celebration of the Lord's Passion</i>
Saturday	7.30 p.m.	St Ninian's-Craigmailen CoS <i>Tenebrae Service</i>
	10.00 a.m.	St Michael's RC <i>Morning Prayer and Blessing of Gifts</i>
	8.00 p.m.	St Peter's & St Columba's Episcopal at St Columba's Bathgate <i>Easter Vigil & First Easter Communion</i>
Easter Day	8.00 p.m.	St Michael's RC <i>The Easter Vigil</i>
	9.00 a.m.	Open Air All-Age Service on Cockleroi. <i>Christ is risen!</i>
Morning		Easter Day Services in all of our Churches

Throughout Holy Week, Linlithgow Churches Working Together are mounting daily services involving all Linlithgow churches. Beginning on Palm Sunday (13th April) with a service at St Ninian's Craigmailen at 6:30pm, the services mix and match preachers and worship leaders with different churches from those they normally serve in.

The week culminates in the all-age service atop Cockleroi Hill at 9am on Easter Sunday (20th April) – always a joyous occasion as long as you remember to dress warmly! Full details of all services are on the Linlithgow Churches [website](#).

Pray Every Day

Sunday: Pray for those in the parish who have recently been diagnosed with significant illness, that they and their families will know God's presence with them.

Monday: Pray for all who have been bereaved to experience God's comfort in their loss. Pray for bereavement team members as they support many of these people.

Tuesday: Pray for the Kirk Session as they still have many decisions to make following the creation of the new parish.

Wednesday: Pray for our political leaders, both in the UK and in Scotland, to be led by wisdom and compassion in the decisions they have to make.

Thursday: Pray for peace in global conflict zones. Israel/Palestine and Russia/ Ukraine are prominent in the media but there are significant areas of conflict elsewhere such as Syria, Yemen and much of Sub Saharan Africa.

Friday: Pray for our young people to experience peace of mind in the run up to important exams.

Saturday: Pray for our ministry team to have time for rest and restoration while they are carrying extra burdens at this time of transition in our congregations.



PEWS NEWS

Worship with Us

Avonbridge 10am (except the second Sunday)

- 10:30am Agape Breakfast on the second Sunday of each month

St Michael's 10am

- Also available on the church [website](#) and on [YouTube](#)
- Contemporary evening services in the Kirk Hall have returned on the first Sunday of each month – next service 6:30pm on Sunday 4th May

St Michael's at Springfield 10am

- Sundays during term time (but no service on 20 April). You are invited to enter the school hall by the main door.

St Ninian's Craigmalen 11am

- Next quarterly Communion on Sunday 27th April
- Also available on [Zoom](#)

Torphichen 11:15am

- Evening services at 7pm on Zoom – click [here](#) from 6:50pm.

CDs of St Michael's Sunday services are also available for those without internet access. Please check in with neighbours and friends to see if they would like a copy and then contact the [church office](#)



Next Newsletter

Our next newsletter will land in your Inbox on or around Thursday 15 May. Do you have something recent or upcoming to share that's relevant to our parish? Please send your thoughts to newsletter editor [Alan Miller](#). The deadline is Sunday 11 May, but the earlier the better!

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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**Linlithgow & Avon Valley Church of Scotland is a
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