

LINLITHGOW & AVON VALLEY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your August newsletter from Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church of Scotland! With families already out shopping for new shoes, gym kit and backpacks, there's a strong back-to-school theme in our content this month. Our parish has more opportunities than ever for children and young people; but there's plenty going on for all of us, from the inter-church barbecue to prayer and upcoming dates for your diary. Enjoy, and please tell us what else you would like to see in future newsletters!



Medieval Merriment

This week, the St Michael's Kirk Hall has become a portal to the past as the 2025 Holiday Club goes medieval. It's all about connecting with the stories of two great kings from the Bible, David and Jesus. And as you can see from this day 1 image, there is indeed much merriment!

Jolly Babies (and Carers)

Jolly Babies has been on a summer road trip to Longcroft Hall, but we are back in St Michael's Kirk Hall on Wednesdays from **13th August**, at 11am-1pm. The group is for babies up to 12 months with their carer. Plenty of tea, coffee, biscuits then at 12 noon we enjoy a mug of homemade soup with cheese and crackers. Once a month we are joined by a member of the Health Visiting team, for advice or to have the baby weighed. We also have visits from a reflexologist who can help with colic and sleep queries too.

For a jolly time, please just turn up, or contact [Fiona McCracken](#) for more info.





Barbecue Time

Is it the party of the year? You'll have to come along to make your own mind up; as these photos from last year show, however, the Linlithgow Churches Forum barbecue has definitely become a fixture on the calendar. This year it's on **Sunday 17 August from 12 noon-3pm**, by the Longcroft Halls.

While there's no charge, you do need to book to bag your burger! For vegetarian / vegan alternatives, please bring your own: a separate barbecue will be available.

[Inter-church Barbecue Tickets, St Ninian Craigmalen Church Field, Linlithgow | TryBooking United Kingdom](#)



Fun, Faith and Friends

Saturday



Looking for some family fun?
Get ready for Messy Church!

On select Saturdays from 3-5pm, we gather for a fantastic afternoon. Come share a meal, sing and dance to action songs, and play some games. Then, get your hands dirty with our signature MESSY crafts after an interactive Bible story.

Messy Church is for everyone—regardless of whether you attend Sunday services. The whole family is invited, from babies to grandparents.

We're a friendly bunch, so don't worry if you don't know anyone; a warm welcome awaits you!

Dates for 2025-26

6 th September 2025	Kirk Hall, Cross House
8 th November 2025	Longcroft Hall, St Ninian's Craigmalen
13 th December 2025	Kirk Hall, Cross House
31 st January 2026	Low Port Centre
21 st March 2026	Longcroft Hall, St Ninian's Craigmalen
23 rd May 2026	Low Port Centre

Contacts

Bible Class

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Boys' Brigade

2linlithgow@boys-brigade.org.uk
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2nd Linlithgow Boys Brigade

Girls' Brigade

Andrea Smith
www.girls-brigade-scotland.org.uk
/gbcompanies/1st-linlithgow

Jesus Factor

Rosina Johnstone
rosinajohnstone@hotmail.co.uk

Jolly Babies

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St Michael's Jolly Babies Linlithgow

Messy Church

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Seedlings

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Sunday Club

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Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church
OSCR Charity No: SC016185

Linlithgow and Avon Valley
Church

Activities for
children and
young people



2025 - 2026

Welcome

Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church is formed of four historic parish churches, and we look forward to welcoming you to any of our venues and activities.

Avonbridge

Children of all ages are welcome at our church services, with craft activities available for younger children during the service.

Service 10am (except 2nd Sunday monthly which is 10.30am).

Springfield

Children of all ages are welcome at our church services, with craft activities available for younger children during the service.

Service 10.00am in Springfield Primary School during West Lothian school terms.

St Ninian's Craigmailen

The 'Jesus Factor' is our Sunday School for children aged 3-12 years learning about the Bible in a fun way through music, crafts, stories, games and animated films.

We meet in the Church for the morning service from 11am.

Torphichen

Children of all ages are welcome at our church services, with craft activities available for younger children during the service.

Service 11.15am.

Sunday

St Michael's

Creche 10.00am - 11.00am

A creche for babies and toddlers (0-4 years) accompanied by a carer is available in the St Katherine's Aisle in the church during the 10am service. Toys, books, jigsaws and crafts will keep the little ones busy allowing their grown-ups to still take part in worship.

Sunday Club 10.00am - 11.00am (P1-P6)

We meet for the service at the Kirk, we exit together and head to Cross House following the all-age talk for Bible stories, crafts, games and music.

Children should be collected from Cross House after the service.

Bible Class 10.00am - 11.00am (P7-S2)

We meet at Cross House and have a fun time together with a game or challenge and then explore what Christianity is all about and what it means in our world today. Oh, and there's biscuits and juice in abundance.

Sunday

Youth Fellowship

7.00pm - 9.00pm (S3-S6)

We play silly games and challenges and might even take a wee trip to the chippy before coming back to Cross House for a deep chat about Christianity and our lives today. We periodically go into Edinburgh, including to the Christmas markets and can also have guests in to talk about issues of the day.

Tuesday & Friday

Toddler Group

9.30am - 11.30am

Toddlers provides a warm welcome for local families, and those from further afield across our parish, with babies and pre-school children to play, make new friends and enjoy a cuppa and a biscuit. We meet during school term time in the Kirk Hall, Cross House, Linlithgow.

Wednesday

Jolly Babies

11.00am - 1.00pm

Jolly Babies allows mums with babies aged 0-11 months to meet other mums, have a chat, a cuppa and make some connections. From 12 noon a cup of soup and some bread and cheese is available. We meet in the Kirk Hall, Cross House, Linlithgow.

Girls' Brigade

Explorers (P1 - P3) 6.15pm - 7.30pm

Juniors (P4 - P7) 6.15pm - 7.30pm

Brigaders (S1 upwards) 6.30pm - 7.45pm

We aim to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ and this is achieved through fun activities - stories, arts, crafts, games, drama and lots more. We meet during school term time in the Longcroft Memorial Halls, St Ninians Craigmailen Church, Linlithgow.

Thursday

Seedlings Tots and Toddlers Church

10.00am - 11.00am

Come and have fun, sing action songs, listen to a short story, say a wee prayer and play with crafts. There is also time to chat and have a cuppa with friends. No church connection is necessary and all babies and toddlers with their parents/carers are warmly welcomed. We meet during school term time in the Kirk Hall, Cross House, Linlithgow.

Boys' Brigade

Anchors (P1 - P3) 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Juniors Section (P4 - P6) 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Company Section (P7 - S6) 8.00pm - 9.30pm

Come and join the Boys' Brigade for a fun-packed night of games, crafts, stories, activities and more.

We meet weekly through school term time, and also enjoy trips and outings, participating in Church services, as well as local and national competitions.

We meet in the Kirk Hall, Cross House, Linlithgow.

There's lots going on for children and young people around Linlithgow and Avon Valley Parish, so hats off to our CYP team for producing this fantastic leaflet to summarise it all! Hard copies will be available soon.

When does everything re-start?

Sunday 17 August – St Michael's Sunday Club / Bible Class and YF

Tuesday 19 August - Toddlers in St Michael's Hall

Thursday 21 August – Seedlings pre-school worship

Saturday 6 September – Messy Church

Contact [Steve Chaffee](#) for more info on any of these.

And some never stop:

Jesus Factor during services at St Ninian's Craigmailen

Craft activities during services at Avonbridge and Torphichen

Craft activities for younger children at Springfield services (held during school terms).

Watch out for the leaflet appearing in the next few weeks – and please feel free to pass one on to any family, friends or neighbours who might benefit from getting involved.

Busy GBs



The 1st Linlithgow Girls Brigade company are always looking for new members to join. Girls are welcome from P1 - P7 for Explorers & Juniors, and S1 upwards for Brigaders. We have lots of fun each week doing crafts and activities, playing games and learning new songs – or ceilidh dancing! All this helps girls develop spiritually, physically, educationally and in service.



We meet regularly through term time on a Wednesday night in Longcroft Halls from 6.15pm-7.30pm for the Explorers & Juniors, and 6.30pm-7.45pm for the Brigaders. If this sounds good, please come

along and join us on a company night starting from **Wednesday 20 August**. For more info please contact the Captain, Andrea Smith on [07572 686588](tel:07572686588) or by linlithgowGB@outlook.com



The Boys are Back

The 2nd Boys' Brigade Company return with registration night on **Thursday 28 August** and the first night of the new session on

4 September. Meeting on Thursday evenings in St Michael's Kirk Hall, they offer a safe environment for boys to learn, grow and discover – and to have a lot of fun!



As well as welcoming new members anywhere in the primary or secondary school age-range, the Company would also love to recruit more adult volunteers. No experience required, and training will be provided. Whatever time commitment you can offer will be rewarded with lashings of faith, love and laughter.

For further info please contact the Company 2linlithgow@boys-brigade.org.uk or check them out on [Facebook](#).



Do you like young people? YOUTHSPEACE does!

YOUTHSPEACE is the new name for Linlithgow Young People's Project, the local team who run a widely varied programme of events and services to support our community's young people. They also partner with local primary schools to offer PSE classes, small group sessions and transition programmes for those making the big step up to secondary school. Giving young

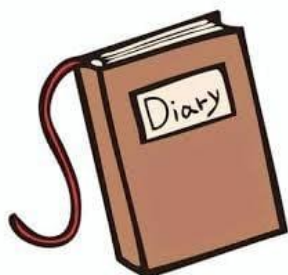
people the chance to volunteer allows them to gain valuable life skills and receive awards such as Saltire Awards and many other accolades.

Could you give some time to mentor a young person? YOUTHSPEACE would love to hear from you! A training session is coming up on **Thursday 28 August** from 7-9pm. For more information, please contact project manager [Graeme Lacey](#), or church elders [Rona Molloy](#) or [Stephen Marshall](#).

Congregational Meeting to Progress Recruitment

When it comes to recruiting a new full-time minister to join our ministry team, the wheels turn slowly - but they are turning. Subject to confirmation at a special Kirk Session meeting on 19th August, a special congregational meeting will take place at St Ninian's Craigmailen Church on **Tuesday 26th August at 7.30pm**. The purpose of the meeting will be to approve a document called the Basis of Reviewable Charge. Only after the document is approved will Presbytery give us permission to crack on with the process.

Further information will follow via official announcements, but for now please keep the date free in your diary.



Coming Up...

You'll find full details for each of these upcoming activities in the September newsletter (due out on Thursday 4th). In the meantime, here are the dates for your diary plus contact points for more information.

Saturday 6 September: the first [Messy Church](#) for 2025, in St Michael's Kirk Hall from 3-5pm. Contact [Steve Chaffee](#) for more info.

Sunday 7 September: Antonine Ensemble concert in St Michael's at 7:30pm. More info from [Alison Hastie](#).

Monday 8 September: Eco Congregations Networking event at Queensferry Parish Church (or via Teams). If you'd like to attend in person, for catering purposes please contact [Sarah Young](#) by Thursday 4 September.

Pray Every Day

SUNDAY- in the midst of the ongoing awful situation in Israel and Palestine, pray that aid will get through safely and that a way will be found to end this conflict and to bring about a just solution and peace.

MONDAY- give thanks for our Trustees and volunteers, praying that they may support each other in working together for the benefit of all the parish.

TUESDAY- pray for wisdom for the Property Team as they plan the stonework task at St Michaels needed to make the church safe.

WEDNESDAY- pray for the fundraising necessary for the redevelopment of Torphichen Kirk and Avonbridge.

THURSDAY- pray that the seeds of faith planted during the Holiday Club continue to develop and that both children and volunteers are drawn closer to God.

FRIDAY- pray for families as children start, or return to, school, that this coming year will be filled with learning, growth and kindness.

SATURDAY- pray for wisdom and compassion for West Lothian Foodbank's volunteers and for the families they seek to help.



Linking You Up

Here are the crucial links for those who like to know where they're going:

Barbecue on 17th August:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/89429>

Boys' Brigade:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=2nd%20linlithgow%20boys%27%20brigade>

YOUTHSPACE:

<https://www.facebook.com/youthspace.scot>

Messy Church:

<https://stmichaelsparish.org.uk/activities/messy-church>

Do you have something recent or upcoming to link across our parish? If so, please contact newsletter editor [Alan Miller](#) by Sunday 31 August (the earlier, the better).

PEWS NEWS

We'd love to have you join us at any of our regular services of worship. These take place on Sundays at:

Avonbridge 10am (except the second Sunday)

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

St Michael's 10am

- Also available for 1 week on the church [website](#) and on [YouTube](#)
- Contemporary evening services in the Kirk Hall resume on Sunday 7 September at 6:30pm

St Michael's at Springfield 10am

- Services resume after the summer break on 7 September

St Ninian's Craigmalen 11am

- 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 – info@linavonchurch.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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