

LINLITHGOW & AVON VALLEY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your October newsletter from Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church of Scotland! We've just marked the arrival of the season of mellow mists and fruitfulness with our Harvest services. Along with that goes a fantastic collection for the Foodbank, autumnal fun and games for our young people, and another wonderfully entertaining murder mystery night laid on by the Aspire Linlithgow team. And that's not to mention opportunities to eat together, to enjoy great music together, and even to roll up our sleeves together!

Speaking of church services, our 'Pews News' now sits at the top of the newsletter, with everything else following on. Enjoy!

PEWS NEWS

We'd love to see you at any of our regular services of worship. This month, services take place on Sundays at:

Avonbridge 10am (except the second Sunday) in the Church Hall

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

St Michael's 10am

- Also available for one week on the church [website](#) and on [YouTube](#)
- NB: no services in St Michael's during the period of closure for stonework investigations - we hope services will resume on Sunday 26 October.
- Contemporary evening services in the Kirk Hall continue on the first Sunday of each month at 6.30pm.

St Michael's at Springfield 10am

- Sundays during term time (but no service on Sunday 19 October). You are invited to enter the school hall by the main door.

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



Generosity in Action

Warmest thanks from Alison Murray on behalf of West Lothian Foodbank for the generosity of all parts of Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church at the Harvest collection on 5 October.

We received 34 crates full of groceries and an amazing financial contribution of £1,346, over £800 of which was Gift Aided. Thanks go to the enthusiastic youngsters who brought goods to the communion table at St Ninian's Craigmalen, to everyone who bought items, delivered bags to the hall, helped with sorting and particularly to the very helpful team at Longcroft who made us so welcome.



Farewell for Now

This month, we say a temporary but heartfelt farewell to Heather Stephens as she begins her journey in ministry. After years of dedicated and warm-hearted service at Avonbridge in particular, Heather is now following her call to train as an Ordained Local Minister (OLM), a path that will allow her to serve the Church in new and exciting ways. Over the coming months, she'll undertake her training at Broxburn & Uphall Parish Church, where she will gain experience and grow further in her ministry.

She may have been diffident about posing with this lovely cake, but it expresses everyone's feelings, and our continuing commitment to ask God's blessings on Heather as she studies, learns, and serves in her placement.

Kiltwalk and Knitting Thanks

More thank you's - firstly from John Fisher snr and jnr. They and their Rotary colleagues completed the Edinburgh Kiltwalk last month with the delightful news that they have received over £4,000 in sponsorship, all of which will go to specialist services at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.



Equally grateful is Anita France, for the huge array of knitting and crochet donated for families in Ukraine. Everything given to date is now packed up to head off to Ukraine this week. Further donations for a subsequent delivery will always be welcome: just contact [Anita](#) for further info.

Pew Jenga



Over the last weekend of September, around 20 volunteers met at St Michael's to prepare for the mechanical platform to enter the church on Monday 29th for the planned stonework checking process.

The plan, masterminded by the Property Team, involved labelling all pews and then moving most of them. The AV equipment was dismantled, and other artefacts either moved to safety or covered with protective sheeting. The organ protection process was managed by a specialist team from Henry Willis & Sons Limited.

There were frequent breaks for fellowship, involving lots of tea and coffee, and of course excellent home baking, and the job was completed in record time - what a team! Work on the survey is now progressing at pace. We'll keep you posted!

Wednesday Night is Girls' Brigade Night

Girls Brigade meet every Wednesday night during term time in the Longcroft Halls. The Explorers (P1-P3) and Juniors (P4 – P7) meet from 6.15pm to 7.30pm and the Brigaders (S1 upwards) meet from 6.30pm – 7.45pm. We have great fun playing games, listening to stories, doing crafts and activities and learning new songs.

This year our Focus is on Healthy Lifestyles: recently we learned about Harvest foods and the tools and machines used to harvest the crops. The younger girls coloured in Harvest pictures, and the older ones completed a wordsearch.



Anyone interested in joining the fun is welcome to come along on a Wednesday night. For info in advance, please contact our Captain, Andrea Smith on [07572 686588](tel:07572686588) or email us [here](#).



Bethany Meals

A team of enthusiastic volunteers from our parish has been supporting Bethany Christian Trust for the past 20 years. At least 5 times a year between October and April, we prepare dinner and lunch sandwiches for about 50 homeless people in Edinburgh. The food is bought and prepared off site by our volunteers, then delivered to the accommodation centre where we serve it to those in need.

Each meal costs at least £110. We'd really appreciate donations of any amount, however small, to enable us to continue providing this caring service. The link will take you to our Stewardship page. Thank you!

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/LinAvonChurchBethanyMealsFund>

Clean-up Time

You know how it goes... after the work comes the work of cleaning! Once the stonework survey in St Michael's is over, Elizabeth Leitch would love to have your help in cleaning all pews and exposed wood surfaces as well as removing all dust. Many hands will make enjoyable work! The only question is the timing: we hope the survey process will be completed in time to allow the clean team access over the weekend of 18-19 October, or possibly during the week beginning Monday 20th.

Please contact Elizabeth [here](#) for more information or to sign yourself up.



There's Been ANOTHER Murder

Back by audience demand! Last year's murder mystery evening performed by Edinburgh Theatre Arts was so popular with the audience that we've booked them to return with their new show – 'The Committee'. (If you've ever endured an interminable bore hogging the floor at a meeting, you'll understand exactly where they're coming from.)

It all kicks off at 7pm on Friday 24th October, in Linlithgow Rose Social Club. A light supper will be provided, the bar will be open all evening and there'll be a raffle. All proceeds go to Aspire Linlithgow's campaign to transform Cross House.

There's no mystery about how to secure your spot at the crime scene. Tickets cost £17.50 and are available from Far From book shop or (plus booking fee) Eventbrite via the QR code or the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/murder-mystery-night-tickets-1652487537709?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>



Saturday 25th October 2025

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

Tickets: £5 adult, £2.50 child

**All proceeds will help support the running of
Linlithgow Guide Hall**

Occasionally @St.Michael's

A series of recitals by local musicians

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



Sunday 26th October 3pm



Glyn Eggar *Violin*

Konstantin Ardakov *Piano*

Handel ~ Hans Gál ~ Shostakovich

Admission free, donations invited for upkeep of the church organ

Service of Memory and Thanksgiving

This service, at 10am on Saturday 1st November in St Michael's Church, is a special time to remember and give thanks for loved ones who have died. There will be reflective music and a gentle act of remembrance included in the service. All those grieving a loss of any kind will be welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service and there will be an opportunity for conversation with each other and with members of the Bereavement Support Team.



Sunflower
Scotland

Coffee Morning

in aid of
Sunflower Scotland

in support of Ukraine

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER

10am - 12pm

St John's Hall, Torphichen

Join us for tea, coffee and delicious home baking.

Fun activities for kids will also be available.



www.sunflowerscotland.co.uk
Sunflower Scotland SC052092



Messy Fun

With the autumn colours coming and the temperatures dropping, Messy Church are continuing a series on the Parables. In September the focus was on the Story of the Good Samaritan, and on 8 November we'll hear the Story of the Lost Son. Please come to Longcroft Hall from 3pm to 5pm for family-friendly crafts, the retelling of the story, and a warm meal, all wrapped up in one autumnal afternoon. It's a lovely playdate idea too, so invite a friend!

Big Quiz Night

The Big Quiz Night for Tear Fund returns on 22nd November at 7:30pm in St Michael's Kirk Hall. Bring your own team or team up on the night for an evening of fun quizzing! There will also be opportunities to find out more about Tear Fund's work to end extreme poverty around the world.

Entry is £5 per person payable at the door, but for more info and to reserve your seat(s) please sign up for a free ticket on [Eventbrite](#)



Sports Focus: Table Tennis

We're thrilled to introduce our new sports section with news that players of any standard, from complete beginners up, are very welcome at Linlithgow Longcroft Table Tennis Group. They meet at the Longcroft Halls every Wednesday from 8-9:30pm. You don't need any special kit: even bats can be provided. The cost is £3 per night (£2 for under 18s).

For further info, do please [email](#) the club or have a look at their [website](#).

Next Newsletter

Thanks for reading our newsletter! Do you have something recent or upcoming to link across our parish? If so, please contact newsletter editor [Alan Miller](#) by Saturday 8th Nov (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, and other Data Protection information can be found at: [Data Protection | St. Michael's Parish Church](#) or [Torphichen Kirk - Privacy](#). We hope to update the Facebook pages for St Ninian's Craigmalen, and Avonbridge in due course

This information is for church use only and is not shared with any third parties

St Michael's Church Office
10 Cross House
Linlithgow, EH49 7AH
☎ 01506 842188

✉ info@linavonchurch.org.uk

Linlithgow & Avon Valley Church of Scotland is a Scottish Charity Reg No SC016185