



LINLITHGOW AND
AVON VALLEY
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY 2026

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the May Newsletter! Over the last week or so, the Kirk Session shared summaries from the financial reports of the first full year of our Church Partnership, Linlithgow and Avon Valley. As we reflect on this first chapter together as a joint parish, we hope this newsletter continues to strengthen those connections - sharing some of the many wonderful things happening across our parish and helping us grow together as one church community in response to the *Joyful Generosity* of God

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 [Facebook](#)
- Sunday evening contemporary services take place in the Kirk Hall, Cross House at 6.30pm. Next service is **31 May** and fortnightly thereafter.

St Michael's at Springfield 10am

- You are invited to enter the school hall by the main door.

St Ninian's Craigmalen 11am

- Also available on [Zoom](#)
- Details of the forthcoming 11 a.m. Sunday service are posted in advance and a recording of the service is uploaded during the following week to our [Facebook](#) page.

Torphichen 11:15am

- Sunday Evening "Zoom" Services. Informal, participatory online Sunday evening service with the opportunity to chat afterwards. 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](#)



You are invited

Joyful Generosity Gathering

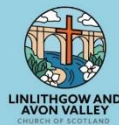
Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church of Scotland warmly invites you to attend one of our three Joyful Generosity Gathering events.

Together we will explore how our united parish looks to continue, and grow, to meet the needs of our community in loving, practical ways, and how your generosity can support this work and mission.

23rd May 2026

Cross House, Linlithgow, EH49 7AL
10am-12noon, 2-4pm, or 7-9pm

Scottish Charity Number SC016185



Joyful Generosity Gathering

Come, consume cake, foster friendship, share stories, your ideas & questions.

Celebrate some of the many things your generosity is supporting and how with your help, we can build on these and develop the Mission of our Congregation.

Join the celebration of God's Generosity at one of the 3 Gathering Events in Cross House, Linlithgow on Saturday 23rd May: either 10am-12noon or 2-4pm or 7-9pm.



BATHGATE CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Summer Concert

WITH BATHGATE BAND

CONDUCTOR STEVEN MEIKLE



**FRIDAY
12
JUNE 2026
7:30 PM**

**ST. MICHAEL'S
PARISH CHURCH
THE CROSS,
LINLITHGOW,
EH49 7AL**



**ADMISSION £8 PER PERSON (CASH/CONTACTLESS) UNDER 16'S FREE
THE DOORS WILL OPEN AT 7:00 PM AND THERE WILL BE A SHORT INTERVAL
BATHGATE CONCERT ORCHESTRA ACKNOWLEDGES SUPPORT FROM OUR SPONSORS**





Rachmaninov All-Night Vigil

One of
the most
sublime
works of
Orthodox
choral
music

Sat 13 June, 19:30
Church of the Sacred Heart
26 Lauriston St, Edinburgh EH3 9DJ

Conductor
Iain McLarty

Sun 21 June, 16:00
St Michael's Parish Church
Kirkgate, Linlithgow EH49 7AL

Tickets £16 | £8
online on Ticketsource
or at the door



Performance length is about 75 min.

<https://scottishchamberchoir.org.uk>
info@scottishchamberchoir.org.uk



Torphichen Kirk Gala Day Café – Saturday 13 June

Join us from 10am - 3pm for drinks, baking, and filled rolls, with all profits going to the West Lothian Foodbank.

Suggested donations: £3 for any drink with any snack, £2 drink only, £1.50 for a filled roll.

If you would like to donate more, please give appropriately. Every customer will receive a free gift!

A small selection of gluten-free items will also be available on request.



West Lothian
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

ANSELM ADORNES: A GREAT LIFE IN LINLITHGOW AND BEYOND

St Michael's Church, Linlithgow

Saturday 6th June, 2.30 - 4.00 pm



You are invited to a discussion and Q & A to celebrate the remarkable life of Anselm Adornes, fifteenth century merchant, diplomat, jousting, traveller to Jerusalem and his links to Linlithgow.

Join Dr Bryony Coombs and Jill Harrison, the authors of *Anselm Adornes: Travel, Trade, Cultural Exchange and Intellectual Networks in Scotland, Bruges and Jerusalem*, with local historian Bruce Jamieson and Frances Murray, HES steward at Linlithgow Palace.

You will be able to see the new book, a copy of which will be donated to Linlithgow Library. You might also like to join the Adornes Network as we continue research into Adornes and Linlithgow.

For further information about the event or the Adornes Network contact Jill at:
adornesnetwork1424@gmail.com

Linlithgow String Orchestra is 10 years old this month!

Six weeks on from the well-received "Messiah for the Community" in St Michael's, our musicians are performing again soon! The Linlithgow String Orchestra will be performing its 10th Anniversary Summer Concert on Sunday 7th June at 2.30pm in the Burgh Halls, featuring another world premiere. We look forward to seeing you there.



[Link to website](#)



10 Linlithgow String Orchestra's
10th Anniversary
Summer Concert **10**

World Premiere - "Calluna" by Joe Cobb
also featuring works by:
Copland, Dowland, Mascagni, Purcell.

Sunday 7th June – 2.30 pm
Linlithgow Burgh Halls
Kirkgate, Linlithgow EH49 7AH
Conductor – Bill Jones

Proud members of
making music

**Tickets on the door or
in advance via our website:**

£10 adult, £8 concession, 12yrs & Under £2



www.linlithgowstringorchestra.uk



TORPHICHEN SUMMER NIGHTS



Summer Nights are Back!

If you didn't manage to attend the Solea guitar duo performance in April, the good news is that the programme continues through Summer at Torphichen Church with a fabulous variety of chamber music for you to enjoy. Every last Sunday of the month through to August, concerts take place at 7pm – click on the link below for full details

[Summer Nights](#)

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS



Board Games & Blether!

Tea, coffee, games ~ and a good blether



FRIDAYS • 12 – 2 PM

24 April • 8 May • 22 May

Avonbridge Church Hall

~ all welcome ~

Come along for an afternoon of friendly company,
a cuppa, and games to enjoy together:

Cards • Rummikub • Dominoes • Battleships

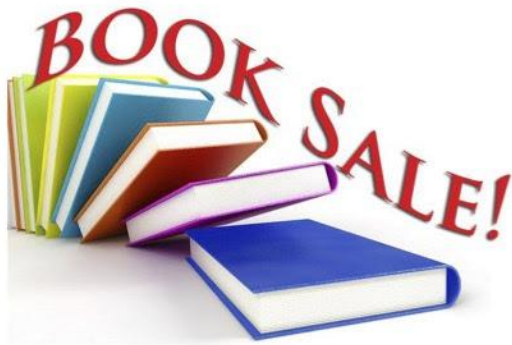
FREE — just come as you are

Bring a friend ~ meet new ones ~ everyone welcome



Election Successes for LAV Families

Two of Scotland's new MSPs come from LAV Parish families. Our new constituency MSP Martyn Day (SNP) will be well known from serving previously as our Westminster constituency MP. Jenny Young (Scottish Labour) was successful in her first election, as a list MSP for Central Scotland. Our congratulations and prayers go to both.



**Saturdays 9th
AND 30th May
10am-12:30pm
Kirk Hall**

**Books... DVDs... CDs... Jigsaws...
and more books!
Take as much as you like
Donate as much as you want**



A big “thank you” from Girls Brigade

Thank you to all those who supported our coffee morning on Saturday 25 April. The grand total of £433.05 was raised for company funds. The leftover books, games and toys from our stall were passed on to Aspire for their next book sale.

Our last night of this session is our Annual Display which will be held on Wednesday 20 May. The girls will be showcasing what they have been learning during the year as well as receiving their badges and awards. Following on from this, the girls and leaders will be taking a well earned rest over the summer holidays and will resume after the schools go back in August.





Meet the Teams... Mission & Outreach

We are continuing our series introducing the Kirk Session teams who do much of the work on behalf of us all. This month, we focus on the Mission and Outreach Team, headed by Graeme Shaw.

Graeme says, "The Mission and Outreach Team exists to bridge the gap between our faith and the reality of everyday life. If mission is our overarching purpose, participating in what God is doing locally, then outreach is the boots-on-the-ground work to make it happen.

God is at work in our community and our team is ready to be forward-thinking and step outside the box to engage meaningfully with our community by being God's hands.

Please contact me here (graemeshaw2014@gmail.com) if you see a practical need we are missing or if you want to help us put our faith into genuine action."



Looking Ahead with Faith and Purpose

Kirk Session gathered in May to reflect on an important year in the life of Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church of Scotland, approving the 2025 Annual Report and Financial Statements for the first full year of the united parish. Alongside reviewing the church's financial position, members looked ahead to future opportunities and challenges, including the stewardship of parish properties and how best to support worship, mission and outreach across the community.

Excitement is also building for the Joyful Generosity Gathering on 23 May, while the recent Alpha Course has been celebrated as a great success, with plans already underway for a new course in September and further mission activities in the months ahead.

[Click to read full report](#)

Coffee Mornings

10am - 12pm

St John's Hall, Torphichen

2 May

13 June - *Gala Day Kirk Cafe*

5 September

3 October - *Pink Coffee Morning*

7 November

*Join us for tea, coffee and
delicious home baking*



LINLITHGOW AND
AVON VALLEY
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



Pray Every Day

SUNDAY - pray for our ministry team and for others leading services around the parish. Pray THAT they will know God's guidance and blessing in this work.

MONDAY - give thanks that Brian Rhind has taken over as leader of the Children and Young People's team. Pray he is well supported by the congregation in this work.

TUESDAY - Pray for a just and fair end to the wars in the Middle East. Prayer that the antisemitic backlash in response to this in some places will end.

WEDNESDAY - pray for wisdom, honesty and good leadership from those newly elected in the recent elections.

THURSDAY - pray for us as a congregation as we face difficult decisions about which of our buildings to keep and maintain. Prayer that these decisions will be carried out in a spirit of graciousness and not threaten the unity of the congregation.

FRIDAY - pray for our ongoing Season of Joyful Giving. Prayer we will be inspired to give generously in response to the many ways in which God has blessed us.

SATURDAY - give thanks for all who provide music for us across the Churches and for the huge contribution this makes to worship.

Share Your News

We're always very happy to hear your feedback on the newsletter, or to receive word of anything recent or upcoming to be shared across our parish. Please contact our [newsletter team](#) by **Sunday 21 June** to make the next issue.



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: [Privacy Notice](#) 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 [ce](#) is not shared with any third parties

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Scottish Charity Reg No SC016185