



LINLITHGOW AND
AVON VALLEY
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your February newsletter from Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church of Scotland. Shall we compare our parish to a major international sporting event? Like the Winter Olympics, it seems we have a great variety of events, lots of news to report, and lots of people enjoying what they're doing. No gold medals, perhaps, but plenty of opportunities to make the world a brighter place!

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 **22 February** 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 Sunday service are available on [Facebook](#) a few days in advance of each service.

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](#)



Alpha Course in Full Swing

As we enter Week 5 of Alpha, it's been hugely encouraging to see members of our congregation and the wider community exploring life and faith together in a relaxed, welcoming space.

Friendships are forming, discussions are deepening - and desserts have been enthusiastically "tested."

The team are especially excited for the upcoming away day on Saturday 7th March. If you haven't joined yet, come along Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at Cross House.



Music Tribute to Alison Hastie (new date)

Come and join us in the Church on **Saturday 21 February** at 11am to hear an hour of piano music played by Alison's husband in memory of her.

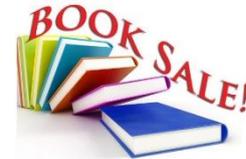


Music Tribute to Alison Hastie

Alison Hastie's sudden death at the end of January, following a short illness, came as a shock to all who knew her. A former organist and choirmaster at St Michael's, she was also well known as the organiser of the 'Occasionally@St Michael's' concerts, and as a professional musician. Alan's recital on Saturday 21st will surely form a moving and heartfelt tribute.

Book Sale on 21 February

All funds for large property projects in the parish come from donations, events and external grants. A great way to lend your support (in this case, to Cross House) is to get along to an Aspire Linlithgow book sale. Take what you want and donate as much as you decide. Stock includes DVDs, CDs, jigsaws and games as well as a large selection of books.



Books... DVDs... CDs... Jigsaws...
and more books!
Take as much as you like
Donate as much as you want
Future dates
14 Mar (date change), 18 Apr,
23 May

**Saturday 21
February
10am-12:30pm
Kirk Hall**



What if this Lent you do more than give stuff up?

Sign up here →



join us.




Linlithgow and Avon Valley
Scottish Charity SC016185



Lent: Giving Up... or Going Deeper?

These free e-resources will help you to 'spring-clean your soul' during Lent, which started this week:

- [Daily guided meditations](#) based on Mark's Gospel, from Biola University's Center for Christianity, Culture and the Arts.
- A choice of different [Lent resources](#) from Canadian author Kate Bowler that can be used by individuals or groups.
- And 40 activities and challenges from [Messy Church](#) for all ages to enjoy together

Climate and Nature Hustings

Eco Congregation Scotland are co-organisers of Scotland's Big Climate and Nature Debate on Tuesday 24th February from 6-8pm, offering a chance to hear what candidates from all political parties have to say on pressing issues such as nature restoration, climate justice and community empowerment. A few places are still available online – do register as soon as possible.



Looking ahead, watch out for details of the Eco Congregation Scotland annual gathering on 28th March, and of a further debate, this time on food, farming and health, on 8th April 2026.

[Register for the Debate](#)



Faith, Friends and Fizz

The next meeting of our warm and friendly women's group will take place on Thursday 26th February, from 7.30pm till 9.00pm in the Adam Room, Cross House, and we would love you to join us. This month we are looking at the Gospel of Mark, so read it if you can, and come along. For more information, please contact [Fiona](#).

Love Live Events?

Come chat with us about joining the St. Michael's Events Team! From welcoming visitors to setting the stage—and even mastering our sound and video systems—you'll be at the heart of the action. St. Michael's is a world-class venue, and our team gets a front-row seat to incredible performances and rehearsals.

Give it a try: join us before Easter to shadow our friendly team and see if it's the right fit for you. No pressure, just a chance to see behind the scenes! Contact [Russell Hogan](#) for more info.



Wednesday Nights are Girls' Nights

Girls of school age are very welcome at 1st Linlithgow Girls Brigade company, who meet on Wednesdays from 6.30pm till 7.45pm in the Longcroft Halls, Philip Avenue, Linlithgow.



We listen to stories, play games, do crafts and activities and have juice and biscuits. Our current focus is 'Healthy Lifestyles' and we have a few visitors lined up to come and talk to the girls. Further information is available from our Captain, [Andrea Smith](#).



World Day of Prayer Service

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women, with the annual service in Linlithgow organised by Linlithgow Churches Together. This year's service has been written by a group of Nigerian Christian women, on the theme "I Will Give you Rest: Come".

A warm welcome – and refreshments! - await everyone at the Low Port Centre on Friday 6th March at 7:30pm.



**LINLITHGOW AND
AVON VALLEY**
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Making Worship Welcoming for All

Within the Kirk Session, the Worship Team seeks to enrich the worship life of the whole Parish and would particularly value your thoughts on accessibility. How might our services better meet individual needs: clearer signage? larger-print materials? enhanced hearing support? quiet spaces? These are only examples: you may have identified other ideas or needs, and we'd truly welcome your suggestions. Please contact team leader [Innes Duncan](#) with your views.

Evening Services

Evening worship continues around the parish. Torphichen Kirk hosts a Zoom service every Sunday at 7pm – details [here](#).

Services are also held fortnightly in St Michael's Kirk Hall, where the theme for the next few months is 'New Year, New Testament', with a variety of speakers leading. Refreshments are available from 6pm before a 6:30pm start, with the next services falling on 22nd February and 8th and 22nd March.



And musicians and singers – please say hello to the band if you'd like to join in!

Dancing the Afternoon Away



The family ceilidh on 24th January was a tremendous hit! Many thanks to all those who helped organise such a fun afternoon. Let's hope it becomes an annual opportunity to brush off the January blues.

Winter with our Young People

Some recent highlights from work with children and young people: Steve Chaffee received a warm welcome when he visited Westfield Primary School, where the children enjoyed learning to make Christingles.



Meanwhile, the inflatable was a popular draw at the Toddlers and Seedlings Christmas Party!



Marian Bomberger



Members of very long standing may remember Rev Grant and Mrs Marian Bomberger and family, who lived in Linlithgow around 1965-67 while Grant served as assistant minister at St Michael's: the family photo dates from this period. We have received sad news of Marion's death at the age of 90 on 31st January, in Virginia, USA. She is survived by Grant together with the couple's three children and their families.



Pray Every Day

MONDAY Pray for both the organisers and attendees at our Alpha Course to know God more through this course.

TUESDAY Pray for the nominating committee trying to find an additional minister for our parish, to know God's guidance and wisdom in their search.

WEDNESDAY Pray for our financial situation which is extremely challenging and for forthcoming stewardship initiatives, that these will challenge us and evoke an appropriate response in the congregation.

THURSDAY Pray for our ministry team that they be strengthened and supported in all they do.

FRIDAY Pray that we as a congregation will respond to God's word with obedience and devotion, seeking to serve Him in our community and beyond.

SATURDAY Pray for our Children and Young People Team, that our children may be filled with wonder by God's creation and his loving presence this Spring.

SUNDAY Continue to pray to the God of peace for peace in the world's warzones including Gaza, Ukraine, Yemen, Sudan and many more.

Talk to Us!

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 15th March to be sure of making 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: [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 t 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**