



LINLITHGOW AND
AVON VALLEY
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

JUNE NEWSLETTER

June has been an exciting month so far across both the Parish and the country. From Gala Day and the Marches to the upcoming Jousting Event at Linlithgow Palace, there has been no shortage of events to capture our attention. And, of course, some of you may have been keeping a close eye on the football as well!

Whatever your month has looked like, it's always worth taking a moment to pause and reflect on the quieter stories of Parish life. Often, it is in the small acts of service, the everyday ministries, and the behind-the-scenes efforts of so many people that we catch a glimpse of God at work among us.

As you read through this month's updates, we hope you'll be encouraged by all that is happening across our Parish community and inspired by the many ways God's faithfulness continues to be seen in His Church.

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 **Sunday 28 June** and fortnightly thereafter.

St Michael's at Springfield 10am

- Resumes Sunday 6 September.

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](#)



Joyful Generosity – Thank you

Thank you to everyone who took part in our joyful and successful celebration of the many activities and ministries across our Parish. We are also grateful to those who took time to reflect on their own giving and support of our shared mission.

Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of people throughout the Parish. None of this would be possible without your generosity, commitment, and encouragement.

If you have not yet watched the video (accessible via the QR code) or read the brochure highlighting some of these wonderful activities, we encourage you to take a few moments to do so. The brochure is available in both printed and electronic formats. If you have not yet received a copy, please speak to one of the Clerks.



Young People at the Heart of Parish Life - Reflections and Looking Ahead

Although Easter is way behind us, *Cracking Easter* was a real highlight, bringing together P6 pupils from Torphichen, Westfield and all the Linlithgow primary schools. Along with our successful Christmas Unwrapped events, we welcomed over 150 pupils from local schools to explore the Christian faith in fun and engaging ways.

We have also continued to support young people through key life transitions. This year, our Wellbeing Transition Booklet reached even more P7 pupils, with Steve distributing copies to Avonbridge and Drumbowie Primary Schools as they prepare for the move to secondary school.

Across the parish, six Messy Church gatherings have brought families together, while our weekly programmes continue to flourish. Toddlers welcome more than 140 people each week, the Brigades engage around 50 young people, and St Michael's was buzzing with activity at the end of term as a lively crèche welcomed children and families from across the community.

Looking ahead, we're excited to be taking part in Magnitude and welcoming children to our Superhero-themed Holiday Club this summer.

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement and support as we invest in the next generation.

Steve Chaffee, Youth and Family Worker





Holiday Club 2026
SUPERHEROES
Justice Hope Faith

A week of fun and friendship for
P1 - P7s with games, crafts,
snacks and worship

3-7 August 2026
10am- 12pm

The Low Port Centre Linlithgow

For more information email
linlithgowchurchestogether@gmail.com



To register click the QR code

Our Office Hours are changing!

From **Wednesday 8 July**, the church office opening hours (Cross House) will change to a Wednesday and Thursday, 9am-1pm. However, our administrator, Val's, working hours will be 9am-5pm on these days.

External booking enquiries will be dealt with on a Tuesday morning via remote working. Please email requests to info@linavonchurch.org.uk





Make Every Event Happen!

Come chat with us about joining the St. Michael's Events Team!

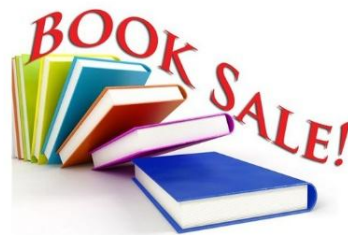
From welcoming visitors to setting the stage - and even mastering our sound and video systems - you'll be at the heart of the action. St. Michael's is a world-class venue, and our team gets a front-row seat to incredible performances and rehearsals.

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.

Calling all Book Lovers

Looking for your next great read? Come along to our Book Sale on Saturday 4 July, from 10.00am to 12.30pm in the Kirkhall.

Browse a wide selection of books, discover some hidden gems, and enjoy a relaxed morning with fellow book lovers. Whether you're searching for a holiday read, a favourite author, or something completely unexpected, there's something for everyone.



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

**Saturday 4
July
10am-12:30pm
Kirk Hall**



Occasionally@St Michael's

Occasionally @St.Michael's

A series of recitals by local musicians

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



Sunday 5th July at 3pm

Dear Friends,

You are warmly invited to an 'Occasionally@St.Michael's' concert, celebrating the past, present and future of these recitals in memory of our founder, Alison Hastie.

Alan Hastie

Admission free, donations invited for the upkeep of the church organ.



Linavon Link - Next Edition and a New Chapter

With summer now officially here, we're pleased to share that the next edition of the Linavon Link is almost ready to go to print. As many of you will know, Myra Lawson has been doing a wonderful job as editor of the magazine. Myra has recently let us know that she plans to step down from the role, and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work, time, and dedication over the years.

We're also delighted to welcome Iain Harrison, who has kindly agreed to take over as editor. We wish him every success as he takes on the role and look forward to seeing the magazine continue to flourish.

Thank you, Myra, for everything you've done, and welcome aboard, Iain!

**LINLITHGOW AND AVON VALLEY**
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 25 July
10am to 12pm
St John's Hall, Torphichen

Story Corner Bear hunt Prizes

All bears welcome
Please bring a human of any age 0-100+

A Window on Wildlife Walk

Edinburgh & West Lothian Eco Congregation Network Meeting

Our next meeting will take us outdoors for a guided nature walk around Linlithgow Loch, led by one of our members. Together, we'll explore the rich wildlife on our doorstep and consider simple ways we can encourage and support nature in the places where we live, work, and worship.

Did you know that Linlithgow Loch is one of only two remaining natural lowland lochs in the Lothians? It's a wonderful opportunity to appreciate this unique local habitat and the wildlife it supports.



When: Sunday 26 July, 2.00pm

Meeting point: Outside St Michael's Church, Linlithgow

After the walk, those who wish are invited to continue the conversation over coffee and cake at a local café.

Everyone is welcome - we hope you'll join us!

Web address - <https://ecocongregationscotland.org>

Contact Sarah Young - Sarah1young@hotmail.com



Meet the Teams... Discipleship

Hello, I'm Alison Miller and I lead the Discipleship team.

Christian Discipleship is a lifelong process of learning to live as Jesus taught us.

I have a great team who are full of ideas and are willing to support me. We have representatives from most of our congregations, I'm still looking for a volunteer for Torphichen/ Avonbridge.

Many people find it's helpful to meet with others and learn by exploring our questions together; or by praying together; or serve others by volunteering in our churches.

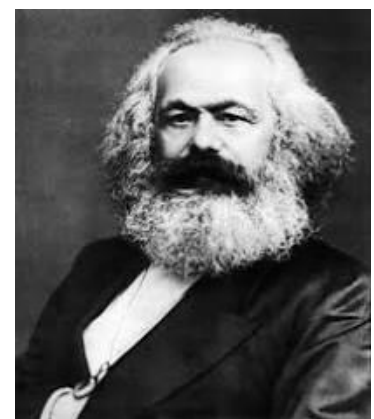
Contact? If you would like to find out more please email discipleship@linavonchurch.org.uk

God designed us for Worship...

God designed us for Worship...More than 180 years after Karl Marx called religion "the opium of the people", scientists have shown that taking part in a church service can indeed affect the body much like an illicit drug.

A study of congregants in Britain and Brazil found that worship significantly increased their ability to withstand pain - an indication, the researchers argue, that the body's natural "mu-opioid" system had been activated.

This is no accident – God designed us to worship in community!





Prayer Items

Sunday

Pray for those debating the Assisted Dying Bill as it returns to Parliament. Ask that the concerns and perspectives being raised by medical professionals, legal experts, and others will be carefully considered, and that wisdom, compassion, and discernment will guide all discussions and decisions.

Monday

Pray for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine. Ask God to move powerfully in the hearts of those who are preventing peace and reconciliation, and to bring an end to conflict and suffering.

Tuesday

Pray for wisdom as we face significant decisions about the future of our buildings in the coming months. Ask God to guide us in making the best use of our resources to support the mission and ministry of our Parish.

Wednesday

Pray that all our children, young people, and teachers will enjoy a time of rest, refreshment, and renewal during the summer holidays.

Thursday

Pray for those living with mental health challenges such as depression and anxiety, and for all who are coping with grief and bereavement. May they know God's comfort, strength, and peace.

Friday

Pray for our Elders, that they will know God's blessing, wisdom, and guidance as they care for and serve our congregation.

Saturday

Pray that our response to the Joyful Generosity campaign will be wholehearted and generous, helping us address our financial challenges and strengthen the future ministry and mission of our Parish

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 16 August** 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 is not shared with any third parties

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