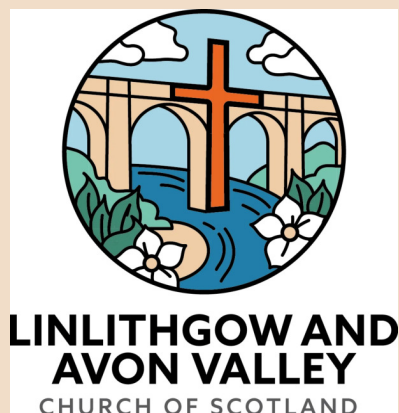




Your September Newsletter

If you've found yourself commenting on the change in weather over the past week or two, or noticing a few brown leaves appearing on the trees, you may be reflecting on the summer that has passed and looking ahead to autumn.

September can feel like a month of change as we move into a new season. Change and uncertainty can remind us of what remains constant: God's faithfulness and steadfast love - a love that never fails, whatever circumstances we face.

We continue to see this faithfulness through the wonderful work happening across our Parish. As we begin a new season, we hope you enjoy reading some of this month's highlights and celebrating all that God is doing among us.

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 fortnightly in the Kirk Hall, Cross House at 6.30pm. Next service is on **Sunday 4th October**.

St Michael's at Springfield:- 10am

- Worship at Springfield Primary School every Sunday except 4th October (Harvest service at St Michael's).

St Ninian's Craigmalen:- 11am

- Services are currently being held in the Longcroft Halls.
- Also [available on Zoom](#): join from shortly before 11am.
- 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 services are also available and are often appreciated by those without internet. Please [contact the church office](#) if a friend or neighbour would like a copy.

Kirk Session Decisions on Our Properties



After extended discussions and deliberations, Kirk Session has reached a series of key decisions about the future of the churches and other properties that we manage.

You can find a [detailed report here](#) that explains the issues, how we got to this point, and what the decisions are. Watch out for details of follow-up meetings to discuss what happens now in greater detail.

Coming Up



You Are Invited...

Alpha returns on **Tuesday 22 September at 7pm** in the **Kirk Hall, Cross House**, and continues every Tuesday through to December.

Whether you've done Alpha before, have been coming to church for years, or are simply curious and exploring Christianity for the first time, Alpha is for everyone. Come along for a warm and friendly evening, with dessert and a cuppa, followed by a video exploring some of life's big questions and plenty of opportunity to chat.

Sign up using [this link](#) or simply turn up: we'd love you to join us!

For more information, contact [The Outreach Team](#).

West Lothian Foodbank Collection



Collecting at Cross House, Linlithgow on **Sunday 4th October** (between 11am and 1:30pm)

We would welcome your support again, particularly with these items: Tinned ham or corned beef, diluting juice 750ml or 1 litre, baby wipes, stock cubes, meat paste, washing up liquid, deodorant for men, Maggi Noodles.

Financial support is also welcome. Thank you.

TORPHICHEN



10.00am - 12.30pm
Saturday 3rd October 2026
In St John's Hall, Manse Rd, Torphichen

Please bring your own re-useable cup

IN AID OF:



**BREAST
CANCER
NOW**
The research
& care charity



Breast Cancer Now is a registered charity
in Scotland (SC045584)

Cancer Research UK is a registered
charity in Scotland (SC041666)

The poster features a soft, painterly illustration of a woman in a long, flowing dress playing a violin. The background is a light, ethereal blue and white. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout.

**Antonine
Ensemble**
Director: Alan Hastie

Sunday
11th October 2026
at 7.30pm
St. Michael's,
Church of Scotland
The Cross,
Linlithgow

*A tribute concert
in memory of
Alison Hastie*

Programme to include:
Mozart: Divertimento No.2 in Bb
Elgar: Serenade for strings
Britten: A Simple Symphony

Donations invited for:
Medecins Sans Frontier

**Admission
Free**

Antonine Ensemble Tribute to Alison Hastie

The Antonine Ensemble, founded by the late Alison Hastie, is reforming under the direction of her husband Alan, for a concert in her memory, 7:30pm at St Michael's, 11th October 2026. Alison was a versatile, passionate musician and Musical Director at St Michael's. She inspired and supported performers, young and old. Admission free, but donations invited for Medecins Sans Frontier.

Jolly Babies - A warm Welcome



Who is Welcome? Mums or carers with babies up to around 12 months.

Where and when? Every Wednesday 11am - 1pm in Kirk Hall, Cross House, Linlithgow. Come along for a chat, meet other new Mums and enjoy a cuppa, biscuits and at 12 noon a mug of homemade soup! Many people move to Linlithgow to start a family and don't have a support network but we can help.

Want to find out more? mail [Fiona McCracken](mailto:Fiona.McCracken@linlithgow.gov.uk)

St Andrew's Ceilidh on Your Doorstep



Come along for a great night of dancing and fun in aid of the Cross House Project!

Friday 27 November at The Rose Club 7.30–11pm. £15 per ticket [Adults only (16+)]

Tickets available from Far from the Madding Crowd, Dorothy Clark (07986 105 830) and Anne McAfee (07752 273 698).

If there's enough interest, we hope to hold a family ceilidh next year.

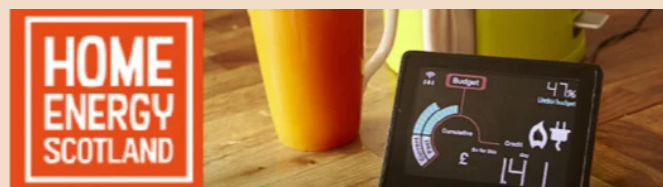
For enquiries: email [Dorothy Clark](mailto:Dorothy.Clark@farfromthemaddingcrowd.co.uk)



Symphonic Praise comes to Linlithgow!

Experience a concert of praise and worship in our beautiful sanctuary of St Michael's, led by the Origin Scotland Orchestra and Choir. Symphonic Praise restores great hymns to Christian worship, teaching sound theology and strengthening faith. Through powerful music, poetry and profound worship, the event celebrates God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, inspiring worship worthy of the King. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30 start on Sunday 27th September.

Water is Worth Saving: Home Energy Scotland Workshop



Wednesday 7 October 2026, 7.30–9pm

Join **Home Energy Scotland** in partnership with **Eco-congregation** and **Scottish Water** for an interactive online workshop on how saving water can help reduce energy bills, cut carbon emissions and protect our precious water resources.

The session will include practical tips for saving water at home, plus a fun chance to test your water knowledge.

Register [here](#) and find out more [here](#)

Brides are Coming

Back in 2017, the 'Brides of St Michael's' event was hugely successful, filling St Michael's with wedding dresses worn in the church over the years.

Now a 'Here Comes the Bride' event is planned for 16-18 April 2027. Come along to St Michael's Kirk Hall on **11 October from 2-4pm** for all the fun of the second mannequin workshop, and contact [Margaret Johnston](#) if you have a wedding dress that could be displayed (wherever you were married!). A few fantastic shots from the first workshop below!



More News

Joyful Generosity: Thank you!



As a response to the Joyful Generosity campaign in Spring, a big thank you is in order to all for reviewing your giving. This is making a positive & inspirational difference, encouraging and ensuring the development & maintenance of worship and the many activities of our united congregation. If you haven't seen the Brochure celebrating 'Our story of Generosity' then seek it out – online, from an Elder or at Worship.

Together we make a difference.

What a Comeback! Torphichen Summer Nights

Torphichen Summer Nights returned in 2026 with a fantastic and varied programme. From April to August, talented emerging and experienced performers entertained audiences in Torphichen Kirk, from the Æ Ensemble - recent graduates of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland - to McSax and their unforgettable performance of *Flight of the Bumblebee*. The feedback was glowing: "Atmospheric", "Fantastic evening" and "Highly recommend attending future events."



We're already looking forward to more Summer Nights!

New Girls Are Most Welcome!



The 1st Linlithgow Girls Brigade company meet in the Longcroft Halls, Philip Avenue, Linlithgow every Wednesday night during term-time from 6.30pm – 7.45pm. Girls in P1 – P3 are in the Explorer section, P4 – P7 are in the Junior section and S1 upwards are in the Brigader section. We have games, crafts, bible stories, songs, juice and biscuits and lots of fun.

Each year we work on a Focus which is a particular subject that we look at throughout the year. This year the girls have chosen the Focus to be on Animals. We look forward to exploring this subject with the girls and learning a lot more about Animals.

We are always looking for more girls who would be made most welcome. If you are interested in coming along, please email our Captain [Andrea Smith](#) or use mobile 07572 686588.

Alternatively, just pop along on a Wednesday night, we'd love to see you.

ACTS Prayer Method

01

A

Adoration

Start by praising God for who He is – loving, powerful, and kind.

02

C

Confession

Be honest about your mistakes and ask God for forgiveness and help to improve.

03

T

Thanksgiving

Thank God for His blessings, big and small, in your life.

04

S

Supplication

Ask God for what you and others need, whether it's guidance, strength, or help in specific situations.

Daily Prayer Time - A Helpful Guide

Do you ever sit down to pray and find your mind wandering, or find yourself unsure of what to say? You aren't alone. A simple framework called the ACTS prayer model can serve as a helpful aid to keep your quiet time focused and meaningful. It breaks prayer down into four natural steps, Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

This method may act as a gentle guide to help you build a richer, more peaceful conversation with God each day.

Bethany Meals for Homeless People

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 for around 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. Click the link [here](#) to visit our Stewardship page. Thank you!



10 Years of Sunshine Singalong for Memory!

The Singalong Team was delighted to welcome 60 guests to our 10th birthday celebrations. After a light lunch and some birthday cake, we sang a selection of songs from the past 10 years with accompanying instruments. If you know of someone living with memory loss, please come along and see the difference music can make. You will be made most welcome.



Monday

Pray for Liam, Thom, Rhona and all in our ministry teams across the parish that they will know God's blessing and guidance in all they do.

Tuesday

Pray for women across the world living in countries where they are denied basic human rights such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. Pray for a willingness amongst people to challenge and address this situation.

Wednesday

Pray for the national Light in the Darkness day of prayer on 31st October.

Thursday

Pray for the many property challenges across the parish and for Donald and his team as they lead on this work.

Friday

Pray for the Alpha course - for those leading and for those attending. Pray they may know God's presence and leading at this time.

Saturday

Pray for Oleg and Sunflower Scotland, for all the work he does to help those in Ukraine.

Sunday

Pray for the work of the Nominating Committee as they try to find a new minister. Pray that God may lead them to the right person.



Share Your News!

We're always delighted to hear your feedback on the newsletter, and to receive word of anything recent or upcoming to be shared across our parish.

Please [contact our newsletter team](#) by **Sunday 25th October** to be in time for 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.

You can access our privacy notice below, and find [all data protection information here](#). Facebook pages for St Ninian's Craigmalen and for Avonbridge will be updated in due course.

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

Privacy Notice

Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church of Scotland

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United Kingdom



We'd like to keep in touch from time to time with newsletters and updates, but only in ways that work for you. If you would prefer not to continue to receive these emails, please click this link.

[Unsubscribe](#)

