

LINLITHGOW & AVON VALLEY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

JUNE NEWSLETTER

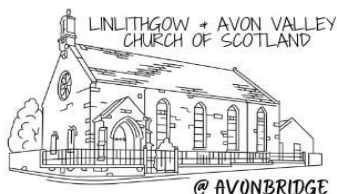
Welcome to your newsletter from Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church of Scotland! In the surest sign that the holidays are on their way, here is our summer edition. It's full of news, ranging from challenging to exciting as we grow into life as a church family sharing faith and fellowship across several sites. Even during the summer, there's still plenty happening!

First Annual Meeting

Close to 100 members from across the parish attended the first 'Stated Annual Meeting' of Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church of Scotland on Tuesday 24th June in St Michael's Kirk Hall. Our minister Liam, session clerk Tom Costley and leaders of several Kirk Session teams updated the meeting on how things are going.

Liam commented that we are now one of the most active and viable congregations in the national church, adding that we hope to be able to begin the recruitment process for a new full-time minister in the autumn. A nominating committee elected by the whole membership will have a key role once this process starts.

What was very clear from the meeting was the number of people working together on all aspects of our parish life, from children's ministries to Christian growth to finance and fundraising. The purvey brought the evening to an enjoyable and sociable end.



Avonbridge Electrical Issues

Sad news: as of this week, the church building (including the hall) at Avonbridge is temporarily closed for reasons of safety, as electrical problems have been uncovered that require immediate attention. Urgent steps are being taken to investigate the issues and then to plan how to resolve them. Please check Facebook for updates and, in the meantime, welcome our Avonbridge friends while they worship elsewhere in the parish.

Eco Inspiration

Sarah Young, leader of Kirk Session's Social Justice team, attended the Eco Congregation Scotland annual gathering earlier this month. She reports it was inspirational to hear award-winning congregations describe how their involvement has helped create new and meaningful relationships across their communities and beyond. A particularly striking message was "Green church is more church", with young people saying, "They will know we are Christians by our love for creation".

If you'd like to hear more or to consider what we can do locally, Sarah would welcome hearing from you by [email](#) initially.



Kirk Café Thrives

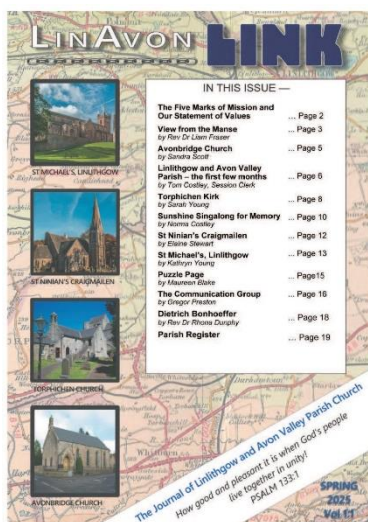
Despite, or possibly thanks to the terrible weather on 14th June, the Kirk Café run during Torphichen's Children's Gala Day was a great success, raising £390 for West Lothian Food Bank.

A big thank you to all who helped, and a special mention for Innes Duncan who represented the Kirk at the Crowning Ceremony.



Christian Aid Collects

Another big thank-you goes to everyone who donated during Christian Aid Week in May. Nationally, Christian Aid are reporting a total of over £833,000. Our local contributions to that magnificent figure include £1,843 from envelopes delivered in Linlithgow, and a further £1,457 from the Linlithgow e-envelope (both inclusive of Gift Aid).



Linking the Parish Together

Hot on the heels of the sad news that Life and Work magazine is about to reach the end of the road comes far better cheer: our parish has a new magazine! Currently called LinAvon Link, the first-ever issue has just been published. Printed copies are now circulating, or you can access a full colour version online any time from [the St Michael's website](#).

The aim is to publish the magazine quarterly, online but also in hard copy – if we can generate enough revenue from sponsorship or advertising. If you know of any business who might be interested in advertising, or if you have an idea for an article, please get in touch with editor [Myra Lawson](#).

Holiday Club Goes Kingly

Hear ye, hear ye! Come lords and ladies, squires and pages, knights and shieldmaidens all to Linlithgow & Avon Valley's and St John's 'A Tale of Two Kings' Holiday Club from 10am to 12 noon on 4th–8th August in Cross House! Come for a week of medieval crafts and games, snack, and Bible stories about two incredible kings! Digital registrations are open now – make sure to register your child (to attend) or young person (to volunteer as a junior leader) online through our Facebook page. If you have any questions at all, please email [Steve Chaffee](mailto:Steve.Chaffee@linlithgowchurch.org.uk).

[Register for Holiday Club](#)



Seedlings are Sprouting

These happy faces belong to just some of the children and helpers who enjoy Seedlings (also known as Tots and Toddlers Church) every week in St Michael's Kirk Hall. It all happens every Thursday between 10-11am, when parents or carers bring pre-schoolers along for a mix of actions songs, a story, prayers, crafts and of course snacks. "No-one is too little or too loud" is the rule!

From the headgear, you may have guessed that this image was taken at their Pentecost celebration. And perhaps it was talk of flames that prompted one 4 year

old to ask, "If the church is so old, why are there only 3 candles?". Answers on a postcard, please...

Seedlings resumes after the summer break on 21st August. Watch out for more news to do with children and young people in our next issue, scheduled to land in your inbox around 7th August!

Toddlers Opportunity

We have an exciting opportunity for an experienced and energetic individual to lead our ministry to pre-school children and their families through the Toddlers Group. Working to lead, organise and promote the Toddler Group, you will also be responsible for the recruitment and support of volunteers as well as ensuring the day to day management of donations and expenditure.

If you have experience of working with pre-school children along with a recognised qualification in early learning and childcare, we would love to hear from you. You will be flexible and able to work as part of a wider team. Having an active Church association is desirable.



This role is working 10 hours per week, on a starting salary of £12.60 per hour. This is a fixed term appointment until June 2026.

For more information, or to apply by submitting your CV and covering letter detailing why you are interested in the role, please contact HR@linavonchurch.org.uk. Closing date 20th July 2025.



What Do You Think?

Our Discipleship team would love to have your help as they look for ways to encourage us all to grow in faith together. They've put together a short questionnaire that'll take just a few minutes of your time. Hard copies will be available at each church, or you can access it online using the button below. For more info, you can email the team [here](#).

[Take me to the questionnaire](#)

Pounding for Ponies

It's nearly 10 years since Heather Stephens established the therapeutic charity [Ponies Help Children](#). To mark this big birthday, as well as raising funds, her son Calum is running 10 miles daily for 10 days at the end of July. By sponsoring him on [JustGiving](#), you can help make a difference both to rescue ponies and to children with additional support needs. Thank you for your support!



Pray Every Day

Sunday: Pray for the volatile situation in the Middle East both in Palestine and in Iran. Pray for wisdom and strength for all those trying to bring peaceful resolutions to these situations.

Monday: Pray that we will find someone rich in faith, and love of children, to fill the Toddler Co-ordinator vacancy, so that this ministry can make a difference in the lives of our little ones.

Tuesday: Pray for the holiday club running from 4-8th August, that families will be inspired to join it and for leaders to have wisdom and creativity as they teach the children about King David and King Jesus.

Wednesday: Pray for our children and young people to know they are loved and valued as they face times of transition between nursery, school and university or college.

Thursday: Pray for opportunities for us to share our faith and for each of us to have the courage to do this when such opportunities arise.

Friday: Pray for an early resolution to the issues at Avonbridge Church so that both worship and community activities can resume quickly.

Saturday: Pray that those who have started attending church with enquiring minds will experience a warm welcome, and will come to faith in Christ as they become aware of God speaking to them.

PEWS NEWS

Regular services of worship take place on Sundays at:

Avonbridge 10am (except the second Sunday)

- 10:30am Agape Breakfast on the second Sunday of each month
- **NB** services currently suspended due to building safety issues: check Facebook for updates

St Michael's 10am

- Also available for 1 week on the church [website](#) and on [YouTube](#)
- Contemporary evening services in the Kirk Hall have finished for the summer; they'll resume on Sunday 7th September at 6.30am

St Michael's at Springfield 10am

- Services resume after the summer break on 7th September

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](#)



Our Story, Your Stories

Last month we promised you a story about how to eat sweets in zero gravity but then forgot to include it. Oops! So here it is: as Dr Kathy Sullivan explained to 170 Primary 5 children in April, you hold the packet in front of you, snip off the top then slowly pull the packet down. That leaves the sweets hanging in mid-air for you to gobble up – or to gently push through the air towards your pal. You're welcome.

And we always welcome your news and views! Please contact editor [Alan Miller](#) by **Sunday 3rd August** if you have something recent or upcoming to share that's relevant to our parish.

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 can be found on our website <http://www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk>.

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