



**ST.  
MICHAEL'S**  
Parish Church

## JUNE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your June newsletter from St Michael's Parish Church! As the newsletter team wrap up before our summer break, here's a cornucopia of ideas, outings and opportunities for you to engage with through the long, hot days (ok, we can dream).

### ANNUAL MEETING



Avonbridge, St Ninian's Craigmalen and Torphichen churches. Come along and find out more about what's going on.

#### Coming Soon – Annual Meeting

30<sup>th</sup> June is the date for St Michael's stated annual meeting, taking place in the church immediately after the morning service. The aim is to cover a lot of ground in a short meeting: our accounts for the bumper year that was 2023, updates on various aspects of the congregation's life, and further details of the process for the proposed union with



#### Voting – How, and For Whom?

Don't be like Boris – remember that you will need photo ID to prove your identity when you go to vote in the UK general election on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July. Acceptable forms of ID include a passport, driving licence, Scottish National Entitlement Card (AKA your bus pass) and a Young Scot Card. Out of date documents are fine as long as you still resemble that young person in the photo.

But who should serve as your MP when the House of Commons resumes business? Come to hear the candidates in the new Bathgate and Linlithgow constituency at a Hustings organised by

Linlithgow Churches Together on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June. This will take place in St Michael's Kirk Hall at 7:15-9pm, with prayers for the nation from 6:30 and then refreshments prior to the hustings itself. If you have a question you'd like the candidates to address, please submit this in advance to Paul Goldsmith [here](#).

## Edinburgh Kiltwalk

Willie MacRae of Torphichen Kirk is planning to do the Edinburgh Kiltwalk 'Big Stroll' – that's 11.2 miles - for Christian Aid on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Come and join him! And if you sign up to walk for Christian Aid you not only receive a colourful t-shirt, but you'll also have the support of the Christian Aid team – including the opportunity to meet up for tea, coffee and a short act of worship before the 10am start at Musselburgh.



This button will take you to the sign-up page on the Kiltwalk website; please make sure to select 'The Big Stroll' (the mid-length walk) and then to select Christian Aid as the charity you are walking for.

[Sign me up for Edinburgh](#)

## 70 Years of Union

A special all-age service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 celebrated 70 years to the day since the Union of St Ninian's and Craigmailen Churches. With two past ministers and wives present, the joy and warmth carried over into lunch and fellowship: not to mention a commemorative bag for all present.



The choir sang 'Bind us together, Lord' as an Introit. Welcoming everyone, Patricia Chapman recalled current and past members from when she first came 60 years ago.

Rosina Johnstone spoke about two fragile clay pots, put together by God to hold the treasures from both churches. Issy Lockhart said for her, what makes a Church special is the people, the welcome, and praising God together. Ken Thomson reminded everyone that Jesus invited us to ask, seek and knock: when we knock, the door will be opened.

The service is available to watch [here](#) on Facebook.

## Avonbridge Reopens for Breakfast

Avonbridge Church celebrated the reopening of their refurbished kitchen and hall with an Agape breakfast – food and worship – on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Benefiting from insurance funding, the work has resulted in a much-improved facility for the benefit of the congregation and community.





## Brian's Big Hike Continues

Brian Curle is now well past the Proclaimers point (500 miles...) in his epic walk from south-west to north-east Britain, and he's still going strong with the 50-day mark coming up soon! Tracy has been supporting from afar but managed a meet-up recently.

Brian would welcome your support for his chosen charities: The Trussell Trust which supports foodbanks across the UK, and Aspire Linlithgow's A House for the Town campaign for Cross House, the Linlithgow base of the West Lothian Foodbank.

[Support The Trussell Trust](#)

[Support A House for the Town](#)



## Summer Club

Every Sunday from 16th June to 4th August, St Michael's is running Sunday Club for anyone aged 5 plus. Come along to the Church at 10 am, then after a short children's address and hymn we will head down to the Kirk hall for fun and games on the theme of 'Building'. Every week will be different and, if the weather is good, we may be able to head outside too.

A creche for babies and children up to 5 accompanied by their parents or carer is available in the St Katherine's aisle in the church during each 10am Sunday Service. Toys, books, jigsaws and crafts are available to help keep the wee ones busy, allowing their grown-ups to take part in the worship.

## Building Strong Foundations

God's Builders - The Linlithgow Churches Holiday Club led jointly by St Michael's and St John's Evangelical Church - will run from 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> August in Cross House. Registration is now open for children of primary-school age, either using [this form](#) or by emailing Steve Chaffee [here](#).

Donations of craft supplies donations are welcome, especially plain cardboard shoeboxes, either with a hinged lid or separate lid. These will be decorated as bricks to form a wall of the Temple, and to store the crafts of Holiday Club attendees. You're welcome to leave these and other donations in the cellar area of Cross House any time after 25<sup>th</sup> June.





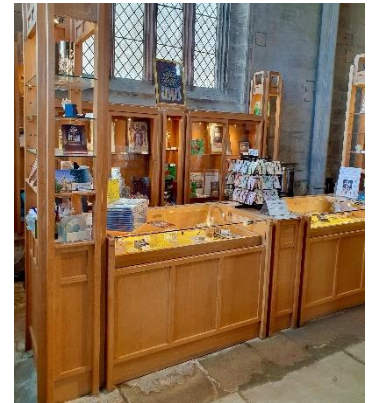
And if you'd like to volunteer – like a previous year's group looking very demure in the photo here - please contact Steve by the same email address above. As always too, your prayers for helpers, craft supplies, and for the children coming are greatly appreciated!

### Is there a Shopkeeper in you?

It was actually Adam Smith who coined the phrase "a nation of shopkeepers". As Jean and John Binnie retire from running the church shop, in 2024 at St Michael's we don't need a nation – just one or 2 individuals willing to take the chance of trying this new vocation.

And what a chance! A beautiful, purpose designed and well-lit shop, with no overheads, enthusiastic sales staff on hand, and your hours at your discretion.

Tempted? then contact David Timperley [here](#) or on 07880 807487 for further info.



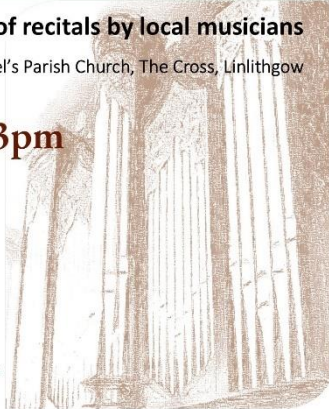
## Occasionally @St.Michael's

A series of recitals by local musicians  
in St. Michael's Parish Church, The Cross, Linlithgow

Sunday 21st July, 3pm

Jean-René André  
Organist of Rennes Cathedral

Admission free,  
donations invited for upkeep of the church organ



The 'Occasionally' concert series gently stretches the strapline 'recitals by local musicians' next month to include a recital by Jean-René André, Organist at Rennes Cathedral since 1993. Jean-René is much lauded in France, so this is a terrific opportunity to hear him put our organ through its paces.

The concert is at 3pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July. As usual, admission is by donation and all proceeds go towards the upkeep of the organ.



### Summer Specials?

What else to do this summer? **Outdoor Church** will be meeting for 2 'bring your own' picnics. No formalities, just food and chat! Meet at the Woodland Car Park, Muiravonside on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 1pm and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 4pm. Children and dogs very welcome.

Watch out for further details of a proposed day trip to **Lindisfarne** on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August. The tide times are perfect, and the sun will of course shine! This trip will be open to friends from all our uniting churches.

Then on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August we have not 1 activity but two: Linlithgow Churches Together are holding a **barbecue**, open to members of all Linlithgow Churches, at 12 noon by the Longcroft Halls at St Ninian's Craigmalen. Later that day, a **service of celebration** and rededication will take place in St Michael's to give thanks for the refurbishment of the Crown of Thorns spire. Between the barbecue and the purvey after this service, your catering needs should be well covered for the day.



Aspire  
Linlithgow presents

# Fotheringhay

An Audience  
with Mary  
Queen of Scots

Born in Linlithgow in 1542... now  
experience an intimate encounter with  
Mary on the eve of her execution in 1562

Adam Room, Cross House,  
The Cross, Linlithgow, EH49 7AL  
(enter by front door)  
Friday 27 September at 3pm  
Saturday 28 September at 2:30pm & 7:00pm

Tickets £17.50 from Eventbrite (+ booking fee)  
or 'Far From the Madding Crowd' bookshop  
Ticket includes 20% off admission to  
Linlithgow Palace

Performances followed by Q&A  
Suitable for age 12 and over.

Aspire  
Linlithgow  
A House for  
the Town

All profits go to Aspire Linlithgow's  
'A House for the Town' fundraising programme

Patron: The Earl of Hopetoun

Aspire Linlithgow is the major projects fundraising campaign of St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow (Scottish charity no. SC016185).

*The atmosphere  
and setting were*  
*perfect, the  
knowledge and*  
**PASSION OF THE**  
**ACTOR**  
**EXCEPTIONAL!**

## Meet Queen Mary

What question would you like to put to Mary Queen of Scots? In the acclaimed drama production 'Fotheringhay: An Audience with Mary Queen of Scots' the Queen, played by actress Jane Collier, reflects on her turbulent life. Each performance will be followed by a Q&A where you can ask that burning question!

Tickets are now on sale on Eventbrite [here](#) or via the QR code for the 3 performances, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September (3pm) and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> (2:30pm and 7pm) at £17.50 (plus booking fee). They're also available from Far from the Madding Crowd (cash only). Thanks to our friends at Historic Environment Scotland, your ticket also entitles you to 20% off admission to Linlithgow Palace – Mary's birthplace – for 1 week from the date of performance.

All proceeds go to Aspire Linlithgow's A House for the Town campaign to transform Cross House.

## Food to share

Teams of enthusiastic volunteers from St Michael's Linlithgow have been supporting Bethany Christian Trust for the past 20 years. Five or 6 times a year, they prepare meals for 50-100 homeless people in Edinburgh. The food is bought by the volunteers and prepared off site, then delivered to the accommodation centre where the team serve it to those in need.



Could you contribute to the cost of this food? You can donate any amount and add Gift Aid on our dedicated Stewardship page by scanning this QR code, or place money in an envelope marked "St. Michael's Bethany Meals" and drop it in the collection plate.

Despite the photo, wearing blue is optional! Seriously, though, this work forms a vital part of Bethany's work with the homeless in Edinburgh.

## Words of Life

We now have a rack of small booklets from Lifewords, in both Cross House and the church. These free booklets reflect on different situations using carefully selected words from the Bible. Some, such as Encounters with Jesus, are ideal for people who are exploring Christian faith; others like Why Me? may be helpful for those coping with difficult circumstances. Then there's the 'Little Book' series that address topics such as Chaos, Faith and Prayer, presenting the Bible's timeless wisdom in a modern format as shown on this page of the Prayer booklet.



Feel free to take one for yourself or to pass on to someone else. Having begun as the Scripture Gift Mission over 130 years ago, Lifewords is a well-established and reputable organisation. You can find further info and resources at their website [here](#). And why not sign up for a daily verse from the Bible by email [here](#)?

## Let the Bells Ring Out

We wanted to share this rather lovely image of work going on in a part of the church building most of us don't see: this is Alastair Young of the Property Team giving his full attention to maintaining one of the bell wheels.

Church life involves so many volunteers, doing so many different things, yet much of this activity goes on quietly behind the scenes. Let's give thanks for all those who contribute in so many ways to ensure we can continue to worship, work and witness together as God's people.





## Happy Holidays!

We wish you and all your ducklings a happy and fulfilling summer. The newsletter team are also taking a bit of a break: the next newsletter will drop into your Inbox around 15<sup>th</sup> August. If you'd like to suggest a topic for us to cover, or to make any other suggestions about the newsletter, please email Alan [here](#) with your ideas.

## Join us for Worship



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Our worship services are every Sunday at 10am. As Covid-19 remains highly transmissible if you feel unwell please consider taking a lateral flow test before attending for worship. We look forward to worshipping with you, safely and joyfully, Sunday by Sunday.

Services at Springfield School resume on **Sunday 1 September at 09:45** and you are invited to enter the school hall by the main door.

Our next contemporary evening service will take place at **6:30pm on Sunday 25 August**, in the Kirk Hall. Come early for a cuppa and a chat!

If you are not able to attend in person, our main church services are live-streamed:

Website: <https://www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsparishlinlithgow/>

They are available shortly after the end of the service for 1 week on the Kirk website under 'Faith'/'Worship Replay' or <http://www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk/replay>

and later on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/StMichaelsLinlithgow>

**NB: Please note that services that are uploaded to YouTube and elsewhere on the web also remain available for 1 week after each service**

**CDs of the Sunday service are also available to those without internet. Please check in with neighbours and friends to see if they would like a copy and contact the office:**

**[info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk](mailto:info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk)**

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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St t Michael's Parish Church Office  
Cross House  
Linlithgow  
EH49 7AL  
☎ 01506 842188  
✉ [info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk](mailto:info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk)

**St Michael's Parish Church of Scotland, Linlithgow is a  
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