

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to your St Michael's Parish Church newsletter! How is your summer going? It's been a time of action and of celebration at St Michael's, with holiday club recently finished, a special service upcoming for the spire, and of course all the ongoing preparation for the planned union of churches. And that's not to mention Boys' Brigade resuming, various upcoming events, and even a murder! (allegedly, as they say.) It's all here for you in your August newsletter. Enjoy









Use your vote

The timeline towards the proposed union between Avonbridge, St Michael's, St Ninian's Craigmailen and Torphichen Parish churches is firming up rapidly – but whether the union goes ahead all hinges on what you, the members of the churches, think! The two key stages are:

- The Kirk Sessions will meet with Presbytery representatives on Tuesday 20th August. After a plenary discussion, each Session will vote separately on whether they agree with the proposed arrangements for the union and for team ministry.
- Subject to those votes, each congregation will then have a meeting after worship on Sunday 1st September. At each meeting, every member and regular attender of that church who comes to the meeting will be able to vote for or against the same issues: the recommended 'basis of union' and 'basis of team ministry'.

While further details will be announced at each church over the coming weeks, do keep the date free in the meantime. Please note that postal or proxy votes are not possible under Church of Scotland rules – only those actually attending their congregation's meeting in person will have a say.



Support your Local Church

It's great that so many St Michael's people give regularly by standing order. Although the prospective union is a huge change in how we organise ourselves, the St Michael's bank account will continue to operate afterwards – so there's no need to change your standing order.

One change that is of course always welcome is to start a new standing order or to increase an existing one! As an example of rising costs, our energy costs have doubled to an estimated £45,000 a year following the end of an excellent 3-year deal. While every effort will be made to reduce our usage – you may want to look out a warmer

sweater for winter Sunday mornings – it'd be fantastic to see rising costs covered through increased giving.

Andrew Jones, our Gift Aid coordinator, would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in setting up a standing order: contact him here.



Holiday Fun

WHAT A HOLIDAY CLUB IT WAS. Thirty children and eighteen leaders gathered across the last week of the holidays for 'God's Builders' (hence the fluo jackets). Across the week they had songs, crafts, games, snacks, Bible stories, jokes, MORE songs, and a whole lot of fun! The theme journeyed from the Tower of Babel through a tent, David's throne, a shoebox wall to represent the Temple, and finally, a torch to symbolise the story of Pentecost.

Steve Chaffee adds "Huge thanks are due to the children themselves, their families who entrusted the children to us for the week, the incredible team of leaders, and to everyone in the church who prayed or supported this Holiday Club in other ways to help make it happen!"





Summer Sizzler

Put aside your plans for a roast dinner this Sunday (18th August) and, instead, head to St Ninian's Craigmailen Church field (by the Longcroft Halls) between noon-3pm for the annual Linlithgow Churches Together barbecue. On top of the chance to meet friends old and new, and to enjoy games for all the family, the barbecue food is free! Please bring your own if you prefer veggie or a specific diet: a separate barbecue will be available for self-cooking to your own satisfaction.

The event is free, but the organisers would love to know how many people they're catering for! Please sign up in advance to let them know.

https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/64917

Evening Thanks

This Sunday also sees the service of thanksgiving to celebrate the refurbishment of St Michael's Crown of Thorns spire take place in the church at 7pm. All are welcome for what promises to be a wonderful celebration.

Many wonderful photos of the spire have been going around since the scaffolding came off. If you have any images to share please pop them onto Facebook and tag AspireLinlithgow so our Fundraising team can share them around.



Number 1

Speaking of the spire, our minister emeritus Rev Ian Paterson and his wife Lorna are now the proud possessors of one of our Meg Wallace prints. And not just any print, but no. 1 in the limited edition of 100! Liam visited Ian and Lorna recently with this gift in appreciation of all they have done for St Michael's over many years

Prints remain available at £100 framed or £50 unframed. With all profits going to Aspire Linlithgow's Project 600 campaign to eliminate water damage in the church, buying a print is a great way to add to your art collection and to our fundraising at the same time! Available from the West End Gallery at Linlithgow Cross (cash only) or you can message the Aspire Linlithgow team here.





Brilliant BBs

Plans are well under way for the start of the new Boys' Brigade session on Thursday 5th September. We are very excited to welcome boys from P1-S6, whether old hands or new members! We offer a fun and safe environment in which the boys can Learn, Grow and Discover.

All staff are vetted and trained. We have no waiting list, and we are great value for money.

Please come along to our enrolment night on Thursday 29th August from 6:30-7:30pm at Cross House (access through the glass door off the Vennel car park). For more info in the meantime, find us on Facebook or email us here.

Coffee and Chat

Thursday 5th September is also the date when our popular Thursday for Coffee times resume in Cross House from 10-11am. Room 1 at the front of the building (enter off the Vennel car park as usual) is where you'll find a cuppa, a biscuit and a blether. Contact <u>Jill Allatt</u> if you'd like more info.





More Groups

In a big church, it's great to have opportunities to get to know people better and to explore our faith together. Home groups offer a perfect setting for mutual support and for discussing honest questions, often with tea or coffee and something to nibble while you chat. Theological expertise is absolutely NOT required!

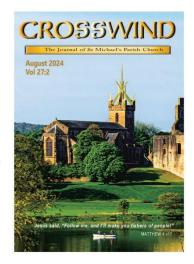
Some groups meet in person while others link up on Zoom; and days and times vary. The common factor is that each

group will warmly welcome you to join or simply 'taste and see'. You'll find more information about our current groups on the church website here. If you're interested but have any questions, Alison Miller will be very happy to hear from you.

Crosswind Calling

Our fabulous Crosswind magazine is out again with a typically amazing array of articles to grab your attention. Although the printed edition has most pages in black and white to keep costs down, you can download the full-colour version here from the church website.

The next issue is likely to be the last in the present format. Do you have something to share through the medium of our journal of record? Please get in touch with Crosswind editor Myra Lawson by 20th August to discuss your ideas.





Prayer Every Day

MONDAY Pray for the ministry team to know God's presence and guidance in all their work.

TUESDAY Pray for all who have come forward for personal prayer at the end of morning services to feel supported by this ministry and see answers to their prayer requests.

WEDNESDAY Pray that the hateful attitudes underpinning rioting and disorder will cease, and for protection for the faith communities

threatened by this behaviour.

THURSDAY Pray for relief for those afflicted by the drought extending across much of Southern Africa, and for all the agencies involved in providing assistance and support.

FRIDAY Pray for young people who have just received exam results, and particularly that those who have not done as well as they hoped will get the support and advice they need.

SATURDAY Give thanks for the liaison group involved in the merger of our four churches, praying for further wisdom and guidance over any matters still to be resolved.

SUNDAY Pray that those inclined to perpetuate violence in the Middle East will desist, asking God for a radical change of mind amongst all leaders.

Ensemble, Encore

ANTONINE ENSEMBLE

Directed by Alison Hastie

Sunday 8th Sept 7.30pm

Warlock

Mozart

Janáček

Capriol Suite

Piano Concerto K453

Idyll for Strings



in St. Michaels Parish Church

Admission free

The Cross, Linlithgow

Donations to:

SScOT (Scottish Schools Orchestra Trust)

and

Aspire Linlithgow: A House for the Town

Quiet Waters Training

Quiet Waters are offering 2 upcoming training days that may be of interest to many. On Friday 20th September the focus is on Creative Listening / Accompaniment Skills, with a workshop on Comforting the Bereaved following on Friday 27th. While the workshops will particularly benefit people working in pastoral care, they are suitable for anyone wishing to enhance their skills and confidence in supporting others.



Both workshops will run from 10am-4pm on Zoom. The cost for each is £80 per person, or £150 if you book for both. Contact the Quiet Waters office here for more info on registration and payment.



Calling all Sleuths

"There's been a murr-derr!!" Or rather, there will be a murder at Linlithgow Rose Social Club on the evening of Friday 25th October as Edinburgh Theatre Arts bring their acclaimed murder mystery evening to Linlithgow. Tickets will go on sale soon with all proceeds to Aspire

Linlithgow's A House for the Town appeal to transform Cross House. Keep the date free!

Before then, it won't take much detective work to establish that tickets for 'Fotheringhay: An Audience with Mary Queen of Scots' are close to selling out. Across the 3 performances, the best availability is for the performance at 2:30pm on Saturday 28th September via Eventbrite. Far From Bookshop also still have a few tickets for Friday evening and Saturday afternoon (cash only). All profits again go to the House for the Town appeal.



Join us for Worship



Our next quarterly Communion service takes place in the church on Sunday 25 August at 10am.

For reasons of health and safety, there will be no common cup. Participants will be served portions of bread and wine in individual glasses.

We also have Holy Communion in the Kirk Hall at 3pm. Again, participants will be served portions of bread and wine in individual glasses



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 are at the new time of 10.00am on Sunday 8 September and you are invited to enter the school hall by the main door.

Our contemporary evening services resume at **6:30pm on Sunday 8 September**, 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

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

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



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