



**ST.
MICHAEL'S**
Parish Church

MAY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your May 2024 newsletter from St Michael's Parish Church! Work on the Crown of Thorns spire has finished just in time to reveal its golden gleam in the recent sunshine. Meanwhile, Liam has been presenting a key report at the General Assembly, while Brian Curle is off on a 1,200 mile hike! Head down the page to find further opportunities to support God's work both here and abroad.

A Fine Display

2nd Linlithgow Boys' Brigade held their annual display evening on Friday 17th May, at the Low Port Centre. A great night was topped out by presentation of Queen's Badges to 6 young men who are now moving on from the company, and President's Badges to a further 4 company members.



The company remains in fine fettle, and all the better for the news that after several years acting in the post, Lisa Callaghan has now taken on the role of Company Captain.

Big congrats to Lisa and all involved in the 2nd Linlithgow!

Christian Aid

If it's May it must be Christian Aid Week - when Christian Aid goes all out in its UK-wide campaign to raise money to support its work throughout the year. Although Christian Aid works all across the world, this year's campaign focusses on Burundi, where malnourishment and poverty leave more than 70% of the population on the edge of survival.





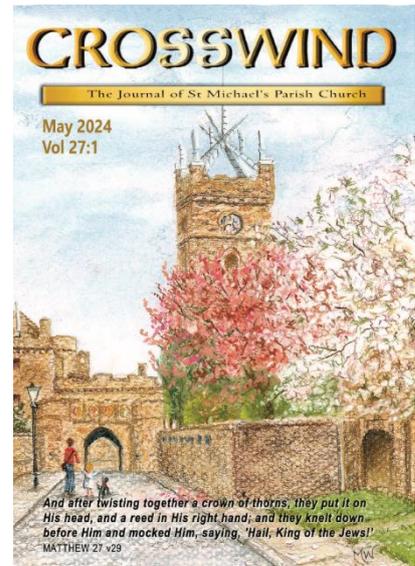
If you've already donated in any way, then thank you very much. However, if you haven't donated yet there's still time to give through the Linlithgow 'e-envelope' using the QR code attached. And if you pay UK tax then don't forget to add gift aid to your donation – it makes such a difference!

Crosswind Time

In journalistic terms, if this newsletter is the Daily Record – and we wear that badge with pride – then Crosswind is Time Magazine, the parish journal of record. It's also a cracking read and this month's edition is up to the usual high standards.

You can download the full-colour version [here](#)

and luxuriate in articles about children in the church, the history of our union partners St Ninian's Craigmalen and even "Be a Somebody – St Michael's Needs You!".



Out and About with Outdoor Church



Outdoor Church enjoyed a visit to Torphichen Kirk and kirkyard this month, where 19 humans and one dog explored the theme of resurrection – then munched on the goodies in the church afterwards.

There's a bit of a kirkyard theme developing: On June 2nd the meeting point is St Michael's Kirkyard gate at the top of Kirkgate at 2pm to consider "God is my refuge" and "Feeling Safe". Further dates are July 7th, August 4th and Sep 1st: at least one of these will involve a picnic, weather permitting. Watch Facebook and Church announcements for further details, or contact Alison Miller [here](#) or on 07882 912068.



Unscaffolded at Last!

Photo by Images Above Ltd

Is 'unscaffolded' a word? Mebbes aye, mebbes naw – but what's beyond doubt is that the scaffolding has all gone from St Michael's church tower. And the general opinion is that the refurbished Crown of Thorns spire looks rather splendid in the Spring sunshine.

STV News covered the story, asking people on the High St what they thought before interviewing Brian Lightbody and Liam. Sadly, they chose not to broadcast the resident who apparently expressed their views on the spire in one word: 'BRAW', thus stymieing a potential new marketing slogan – 'Braw in Bronze'. Perhaps just as well!



Going the Extra Miles

An extra mile or 2 would be nothing to two recent and very intrepid supporters of St Michael's fundraising. On 12 May, Pete Wright completed his 24-hour Cycle for St Michael, even giving himself the added challenge of finishing at the top of the Kirkgate (where he described himself as feeling 'gubbed' but happy). There's still time to help Pete finish the funding for the spire by sponsoring him [here](#).

Possibly even more intrepid is Brian Curle, now 2 weeks into Brian's Big Hike. Walking all the way between the most southerly and northerly points of Britain, Brian expects to cover at least 1,200 miles in his 3-month trek. Brian welcomes sponsorship for [The Trussell Trust](#), which supports food banks across the UK – and also for our '[A House for the Town](#)' project to transform Cross House, the local base for West Lothian Foodbank.



Queen Mary To Visit Cross House!

For all that Mary Queen of Scots was born in Linlithgow Palace and probably baptised in St Michael's, she never had the opportunity to visit Cross House. Until now... 'Fotheringhay: An Audience with Mary Queen of Scots' is a professional production in which, on the eve of her execution, Mary reflects on her life in an atmospheric and intimate drama.

The Aspire Linlithgow team are delighted to be bringing this production to the Adam Room in Cross House for three

performances: **Friday 27th September at 3pm**, and **Saturday 28th at 2pm and 7:30pm**. Watch out for more details and ticket info coming soon!

Aspire
Linlithgow

A House for
the *Town*



The Big Clean

If (like me) your idea of a Spring clean is taking the vacuum right into the corners for once, then raise your hat to the squad of twenty intrepid volunteers who recently undertook a deep clean of the church building. Nicknaming themselves "The Holy Dusters", over three days they wiped down, vacuumed and hoovered everywhere you could think of.

Good company definitely lightened the load, as did an array of surprising finds. To name but a few, they swept up broken Christmas baubles, a watch strap, cocktail sticks, a concealed Easter parcel, a pair of slippers and a Tamagotchi. And of course, unpicked chewing gum (over 40 pieces). Job done until next year. In the meantime, we'll all be watching out for someone producing new slippers on a Sunday morning...

Pray Every Day

SUNDAY Give thanks for all who attended the new members brunch, praying that they'll find opportunities to serve God in our fellowship.

MONDAY Pray for food, shelter and medical aid for those displaced by the conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territories, and also that God will change the mindsets of all involved this conflict and that a lasting and fair peace may be found.



TUESDAY Pray for wisdom and guidance for all those working towards our union with St Ninian's Craigmailen, Torphichen Kirk and Avonbridge.

WEDNESDAY Give thanks for completion of the work on the spire and the publicity surrounding it; pray for the next phases of the Aspire Linlithgow campaign and for our fundraising team as they lead this work.

THURSDAY Pray for those affected by devastating floods in the south of Brazil to receive food and shelter, and for all trying to provide assistance to them.

FRIDAY Pray that all the house groups and Bible study groups in the congregation will provide fellowship and helpful teaching to those who attend.

SATURDAY Pray for the ministry team, and especially for Liam as he leads it, that they will know God's guidance and wisdom in all they do.



Speaking of Liam

We know Rev Dr Liam J Fraser as a great preacher, a supportive pastor and a forward-thinking leader. He also serves as the Convenor of the Church of Scotland's Theological Forum. What that bland title doesn't tell you is that the Theological Forum is where the church sends the some of the trickiest issues of the day for wise counsel.

Earlier this week, at the 2024 General Assembly, Liam presented the Forum's report on topics such as: modernising the Westminster Confession (one of the Church's foundation documents); conversion therapy; and transgender identities in the Church of Scotland. On this, the crux of the report was that people presenting a diverse gender identity "must be welcomed without reserve into the worship and prayer life of the Church".

Mulanje Mission Hospital, Malawi

The retiring collection after this Sunday's quarterly Communion will support the fantastic work of Mulanje hospital in Malawi. In one of the world's poorest countries, Mulanje provides a wide-ranging care programme, from ante-natal through to palliative care. It trains new nurses and doctors and works in remote communities, as well as in the hospital. It also extends its work to help the community at large via several imaginative projects.



You can find more information on the hospital's website [here](#), and can also sign up to receive their inspiring newsletters.



Floral Delights Ahead

On **Sunday 23 June from 2pm-5pm**, Janet and John Carswell will be hosting a Garden Open Day at Jock's Hill, Philip Avenue, Linlithgow, in aid of Médecins Sans Frontières. Entry: £5. Tea is available (please bring your own mug). Disabled parking only, which is available by prior arrangement on 845698

Join us for Worship

Our next quarterly Communion service takes place in the church on **Sunday 26 May** at 10am with Rev Dr Liam Fraser.

Our Family Communion service takes place in the Kirk Hall at 10am with Rev Thom Riddell and Steve Chaffee, Children & Young People's Worker

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 with Rev Thom Riddell. Again, participants will be served portions of bread along with 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 **09:45** and you are invited to enter the school hall by the main door. **NB: There is no Springfield service on Sunday 26 May.**

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

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ST. MICHAEL'S
Parish Church

St Michael's Parish Church of Scotland, Linlithgow is a Scottish Charity Reg No SC016185

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