

## **What's Happening at Kirk Session - April**

Here are the key points from the Kirk Session meeting of Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church, held on Tuesday 8 April.

**Finances:** Session were reminded of the volume of work being undertaken in bringing the finance of four churches together under one charity registration. The annual audit of our finances is also underway. A discussion was held on the most effective use of legacy funds to enhance the work of the Church. This focused on four main categories, fundraising for Project 600 and House for the Town; enhancements to church buildings and events; outreach in youth and children's ministry and the replacing and upgrading of equipment.

**Property:** Updates were provided on a number of projects including the re-building of the stone wall at Longcroft Hall, essential upgrade work at St Michael's manse, ground maintenance work around the buildings across the parish and the repair of storm damage at the manse in Torphichen.

**Events:** Kirk Session expressed its thanks to those involved in the Re-inspired jewellery exhibition in St Michael's and also the series of events centred around the visit of Dr Kathy Sullivan, the astronaut from the USA.

**Manse Selection:** An important part of the process to appoint a full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament to the vacant position which we have within the parish is the confirmation that we have a manse of an acceptable standard to offer the appointed Minister. As the parish currently has two available manses – one formerly used by the minister at Torphichen Kirk and one formerly used by the minister at St Ninian's Craigmailen, it was necessary to decide which of these manses should be our choice to offer to the new Minister when appointed.

A detailed assessment was undertaken using a range of criteria and the recommendation which was approved unanimously by Kirk Session was to retain the manse in Torphichen and to proceed with the sale of the St Ninian's Craigmailen manse.

**Vacancy:** Related to the process of filling the vacancy for another Minister, it was reported that the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian had established a Vacancy Advisory Committee and that an Interim Moderator would be appointed at the next meeting in June.

**New Members:** Kirk Session approved the admission of four new members to the church at the service in St Michael's on Easter Sunday – Shona and David McKenzie, Lorraine Stevenson and Pauline Donnelly. A fifth new member, Andrew Keane will be admitted at a later date.