

What's Happening at Kirk Session – February 2026

Here are the key points from the Kirk Session meeting of Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church, held on Tuesday 10th February.

Finances: Provisional figures were presented for the income and expenditure for all 12 months of 2025. As outlined in last month's summary, these indicate a deficit on the general accounts for 2025. However, the size of that deficit will only be established once the full accounts are finalised and audited over the next month or so.

Stewardship: Kirk Session spent a considerable period of time hearing the initial plans for a Season of Stewardship which would not focus solely on the financial element of stewardship but also on all aspects of our personal lives and how we relate to Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church. The team involved in the development of the proposals received the approval of Kirk Session to proceed with the planning of a launch event, supported by a series of sermons across a three to four weeks' period, across all of the worship centres.

Property: As has been highlighted previously, the largest item of ongoing expenditure relates to the maintenance and repair of the numerous properties within the parish. While some of this maintenance is recognised and planned in advance with a budget allocated, on a regular basis issues arise which require immediate action. At this meeting, Kirk Session was advised of a number of such issues across several properties and the related costs which would be incurred.

Hall Charges: On a regular basis, we review the various charges for the hire of the various properties within the parish. This exercise requires a careful balance of a number of factors such as the cost of providing access, the relative costs of other facilities within the parish as well as the desire to encourage wider use of the facilities by the local community as part of our programme of Outreach.

Retiring Collections: Finally, a letter of thanks had been received from St John's Hospital in Gaza, one of the recipients of the retiring collections at the various Christmas services within St Michael's. Here is how our small donation is regarded by the operators of the hospital:

“Your support is invaluable in helping us deliver essential eyecare services to the people of Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank, regardless of ethnicity, religion or ability to pay. Despite the challenges posed by the conflict in Gaza, in 2025, the hospital provided treatment to 232,000 patients, including 110,000 children – a record number of patients for the hospital”