

What's Happening at Kirk Session - March

Here are the key points from the Kirk Session meeting of Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church, held on Tuesday 11th March.

Our Values: Following a detailed discussion at the Plenary Meeting of all Elders in February, Kirk Session agreed a statement of six Values which should underpin not only our work within the Church but our life in general. These Values are – Faithful, Listening, Honesty, Respect, Encouragement, Mission. These Values and what they represent will be promoted through various channels including the website, the newsletter and on posters

Finances: Team budgets for 2025 totalling £150,000 which excludes capital expenditure programmes were approved. The financial outlook is challenging and we may need to take steps to increase our income or reduce our costs if we are to break even at the year end.

Property: Approval was given to appoint a firm of conservation architects to undertake preparatory work on Phase 1 of Project 600 which involves work on the External fabric of St Michael's Church.

Structure: Kirk Session has recognised the need to ensure that the interaction and communications with the various places of worship within the Parish is as effective as possible. Consequently, Elaine Stewart (St Ninian's Craigmalen) and Heather Stephens (Avonbridge) have been appointed as Assistant Session Clerks to act as a 'bridge' between their local places of worship and Kirk Session. These roles will complement those of the two Deputy Session Clerks – James White (Torphichen) and Alison Murray (St Michael's).

Magazine: A proposal from the Communications Team for some funding to launch a quarterly parish magazine was accepted. It is hoped that subsequent editions will become self-funding through income from advertising and sponsorship. It is hoped that this first edition will be published in late April.

Worship: The Worship Team highlighted the variety of worship services which are available across the Parish in addition to the Sunday morning services. These include a short reflective service in St Ninian's Craigmalen each Wednesday at 1pm, the contemporary Sunday evening service in the Kirk Hall of St Michael's at 6.30pm on the first Sunday of the month and a participatory Zoom service organised from Torphichen every Sunday evening at 7pm. Details of the timing of services are available on the Parish website.