

What's Happening at Kirk Session – November 2025

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

Finances: Session considered the Income and Expenditure summary for the first 9 months of 2025 as part of the regular monitoring of finances. This highlighted the fact that our general income is not keeping pace with our running costs. This means that unless we can increase donations, there will be some difficult spending decisions to be made in 2026. Trustees were reminded of their shared responsibilities in managing the Parish finances.

Property: Details were provided of several projects which had been undertaken across the four churches in the parish to maintain the fabric of the buildings. In addition, the main renovation work on the Torphichen Manse which is being prepared for the second minister has now been completed on schedule.

Fundraising: The Fundraising Team has been extremely busy submitting applications for financial assistance to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Cross House project and to Historic Environment Scotland for the Project 600 programme of work on the Sanctuary at St Michael's. In addition, the recent Murder Mystery Night raised almost £1200 and there will be a Rock Choir Concert in St Michael's on Tuesday 25 November in aid of Project 600

Communications: The Autumn edition of Linavon Link, the parish magazine has now been produced and physical copies will be distributed by District Elders to members over the next couple of weeks or will be available in the church. A digital copy will also be available on the website and, in some cases, will be emailed to members. The Communications Team deserves a big thank you for securing sponsorship from local businesses which has allowed the magazine to be printed in colour.

A new logo for the parish to replace the previous logos used by the various churches has now been produced. Over the next few weeks, you will start to see it featuring on a range of communications from the church.

Pastoral Care: As part of the regular reporting to Kirk Session of the various teams and committees, Tom Brown who leads the Pastoral Care provided an update on the range of services which his team provide. The recent service of Memory and Thanksgiving was well attended, and the Blue Christmas service will be held on Wednesday 17 December in St Michael's. Due to the success of the recent Preparing for Death course, it is intended to repeat this event in 2026.

Finally, Tom Brown who has led the Pastoral Care team, initially within St Michael's and latterly for the parish is stepping back at the end of the year. He has done an amazing job leading this team and Kirk Session took the opportunity of thanking him for his hard work and expertise. Jill Allatt has kindly agreed to take over from Tom as leader of the team.