



Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity SC016185

What's Happening at Kirk Session – October 2026

Property Review

After the lengthy meeting in September when the discussion on the Property Review paper was considered, the Trustee Elders were looking forward to a somewhat lighter agenda. However there was still a number of important issues to be considered.

Following on from the decisions which were taken as part of the Property Review, it was agreed that local meetings would be held to enable members to find out more about the process which lay behind the decisions and also to understand more about the next steps. The following local meetings have been scheduled:

Monday 19 October, Kirk Hall, Cross House @ 7pm

Tuesday 20 October, Longcroft Hall @ 7pm

Sunday 25 October, Torphichen Kirk @ 2.30pm

Property Maintenance

Kirk Session was updated on the continuing programme of maintenance which is required for the various properties within the parish. This included a number of options which are being considered for the apse area within St Michael's Church to ensure that any further stone fall does not cause a safety issue until the remedial work can be undertaken. Also, lightning tests are undertaken at all of our properties on a regular basis and as a result, remediation work is required for Avonbridge Church.

Youth Worker

With the imminent departure of Steve Chaffee as Youth Worker, a draft Job Description and Person Specification for his replacement was considered by Kirk Session. Approval was required for this before a request is made to Presbytery for its approval to begin the recruitment process.

Sunflower Scotland

It was noted that the recent collection across the parish for the local charity, Sunflower Scotland produced almost £3000 in donations which will enable the purchase of heavy duty batteries to provide the necessary energy for heating people's homes – an initiative which is increasingly important following the continued damage on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.



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Communion Silver

Kirk Session was updated on the process by which we are reviewing the stock of valuable silver items which is held by St Michael's Church. This has been prompted by a change in the arrangements for storage of these items. A small group of Elders will now identify those items which remain in use and/or which we wish to retain and then seek the permission of Presbytery and the Assembly Trustees to sell the remaining items to realise some income for the parish.

Vacancies

We continue to seek someone to assume the vacant role of heading up the Communications Team and also someone to replace Linda Jamieson who wishes to step back as leader of the Finance Team. The Session Clerk would welcome any offers from individuals who might be interested in either of these positions or indeed, suggesting someone who they believe would be a suitable candidate.