

**ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH, LINLITHGOW**  
**Sunday 1 October 2017**  
**Harvest Festival**



**Today's Service**

10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving  
Joint Service with  
Baptisms  
**The Ministry Team**

Welcome to St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow.  
Thank you for joining us today. We hope that you feel at home here with us.

**Please join us after this service to celebrate our Harvest Festival. We will share fellowship over lunch together in the Kirk Hall. All Welcome!**

If you are here this morning with young children, there is a crèche with toys in St Katherine's Aisle for under 5s. You may sit with your child if you prefer, or leave him/her with our crèche helpers during the service. There is a supervised crèche in Room 1 of Cross House for parents who prefer this option. If required, our team at the door will be happy to help and if we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the cards in the pews.

**Knowing Christ better - Serving Him together - Making Him known to others**

**Prayer Focus**

"Why the clock? To remind us all to join in prayer regularly either at 10am or 10pm"



As we give thanks for our harvest and all the things we enjoy every day, we pray for wisdom and commitment for world leaders, scientists and all who have it within their power to influence for good the care of our beautiful, resourceful planet. We pray for all trying to rebuild their lives after the recent terrible hurricanes, earthquakes and floods in so many places, and for those suffering terribly from the effects of war and famine.

You are welcome to join us for Weekly Prayers in the Queen's Aisle on **Wednesdays at 12.30**. There is a box in the Queen's Aisle in which to put requests for prayer. Or phone 822603 or 670980.

**Ministry Team:**

Rev Dr Stewart Gillan  
 Rev Cheryl McKellar-Young  
 Rev Thom Riddell

Rev Dr JunSoo Park, Minister in  
 Association

**Organist & Director of Music:**  
 Andrew Sutherland

**Address:**

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Open: Mon, Wed, Thu, 9am– 1pm. Tue by appointment  
 Fri 11am-1pm

Vestry hour: 7pm Thu by appointment.



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**This week in Cross House**

<b>Mon</b> <b>2 Oct</b>	9.00am 10.30am	Elders Kirk Knitting Club	7.00pm	Bereavement Support Group
<b>Tue</b> <b>3 Oct</b>	9.45am 10.30am	Parent & Toddler Group West Lothian Foodbank	7.00pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	Stewardship & Finance Team Badminton Group Church Visitors Meeting
<b>Wed</b> <b>4 Oct</b>			6.30pm	Girls' Brigade
<b>Thu</b> <b>5 Oct</b>	10.00am 10.00am	Seedlings Thursday for Coffee	3.15pm 6.30pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	Chapters Book Club Boys' Brigade Minister's Vestry Choir Rehearsal – <b>Kirk</b>
<b>Fri</b> <b>6 Oct</b>	9.45am 10.00am 10.30am	Parent & Toddler Group Housegroup WL Foodbank		
<b>Sat</b> <b>7 Oct</b>				
<b>Sun</b> <b>8 Oct</b>	9.45am	Crèche, Sunday Club & Bible Class	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship

**Forthcoming Events**

<b>14 Oct</b>	9.30am	Bible at Breakfast – Adam Room
<b>28 Oct</b>	10am	Cancer Research Coffee Morning – Kirk Hall

**NB:** Great care should be taken by those using the small car park at the Kirk Hall as children are often in the vicinity.

## Knowing Christ better

**Bible at Breakfast: Saturday 14 October at 9.30am**, with the **Rev Hilary Beresford**, recently of New Zealand, transitioning into the Church of Scotland. Info from Hilary (07561 824127) and Stewart (842195). All welcome.

**House Groups:** For more information about fellowship groups meeting within St Michael's, please call Alison Miller 844992, Margaret Henderson 844787 or Barbara Thomson 845705.

**The Help Centre** offers information covering many concerns. Wondering where to access support for yourself or another? Tel 842646, or look at [www.helpcentre.org.uk](http://www.helpcentre.org.uk)

**Bereavement Support:** The Bereavement Support Team offers confidential one-to-one support with the aim of helping you make sense of the painful and bewildering array of responses to bereavement, and to help you adapt to the loss. Positive Pathways informal support group meets fortnightly in the Canal Tearoom. Contact Sheila Rae 847538 or [sheila.ruth.rae@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.ruth.rae@gmail.com).

**"Just 10 – The Ten Commandments"** Housegroup **Friday 6 October** at 10am in Cross House. **Session Five: "Manage your anger"**. Cuppa, cake and chat afterwards. All welcome. Contact Barbara Thomson (845705) if you would like more details

## Serving Him together

**Harvest Lunch Today in the Kirk Hall** following morning worship. All proceeds going towards **Guild Projects - Mission International: Haiti and Prospects: All Friends Together**. Please come along, enjoy homemade soup, fresh bread and cheese, and home baking while supporting worthy causes. Further info from Margaret Henderson (Tel. 844787).

**Time of Stillness:** On Thursdays at 2pm, we meet in St Katherine's Aisle (**entrance via south door during winter opening hours**). Come and discover what 15 minutes of stillness can do for you. Nothing will be asked of you. Tea and cake afterwards. Info from Cheryl. All welcome.

**☞ Chapters:** Our book selection for September is *The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul* by Deborah Rodriguez. Anyone interested in joining us on Thursday 5 October to discuss their thoughts on the book will be most welcome. For more information, contact Sally Chambers 07732722146.

**Crossreach:** Christmas card and calendar catalogues are available in the church office or why not look at their online shop.

## Making Him known to others

**Knitting Club:** The Kirk Knitting Club meets once a month in Cross House on a Monday at 10.30 am in Room 1. **Next meeting Monday 2 October.**

**Crosswind:** making up of Elders' bundles will take place on **Wednesday 4 October** in the church, starting at 9.30am.

## **General Notices**

**Our Sunshine Sing-along for Memory**, in the Kirk Hall on the second Thursday of each month 12–1.30pm. All those living with memory loss and their carers are welcome. No church connection necessary. Light lunch and singing. Further info from Cheryl or Norma Costley 01506 843255. **Next Sing-along, Thursday 12 October.**

**Choir Rehearsal: Thursday 5 October at 7.30pm in the Church.** All welcome! Details from Andrew Sutherland (845 868) or any choir member.

**Bad Girls** started up again on Tuesday. We are a group of women of all ages, learning in an accessible and fun way more about the women in the Bible. Next meeting **31 October at 7.30pm** in the Adam Room. Why not come along. No bible knowledge needed. Further information from Cheryl.

**Poppy fall:** Would you like to add a poppy to our beautiful Remembrance Poppy Pulpit Fall? Perhaps you have a family member who was lost in one of the wars. If so, 'The Knitting Group' would be happy to crochet one for you or add a poppy you've crocheted yourself. Please be in touch with Cherie Finlay from the knitting group 01506 834 664 or speak to Cheryl.

**Date for your diary:** Annual Advent Fair and Candlelight procession on 25 November.

**Thursday for Coffee:** Come along and enjoy a cuppa, home baking and chat with the group which meets on Thursdays in Cross House between 10–11am. All are welcome.

**Notice Board** - In addition to the specific notices on this intimation sheet, please note there are a number of posters publicising particular events displayed on the notice board in the servery area of the Kirk Hall.

**Intimations** All notices need to be in the church office by Thursday morning.

**Sunday 1 October 2017: 10.30am**

**We gather as the people of God...**

Call to Worship

Hymn: 229, We plough the fields and scatter

*(Harvest gifts are brought forward during the singing of this hymn)*

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Time with young people

Hymn: JP47, For I'm building a people of power

Sacrament of Baptism with Aaronic Blessing, Hymn 796

*The Lord bless you and keep you*

*The Lord make his face to shine upon you / and be gracious unto you*

*The Lord lift up his countenance upon you / and give you peace.*

Hymn: 633, Child of blessing, child of promise

*(During the singing of this hymn, parents with younger children may wish to use St Katherine's Aisle on the right, which we have set up especially with toys and books. Older children leave for their welly walk)*

Prayer of Confession and Supplication

**We listen to stories of faith and hope...**

First Reading: Psalm 126 (p.584) – Today's reader is Margaret Kennedy

Choir Anthem: A Gaelic Blessing – Words traditional, Music by John Rutter

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 9: 6–15 (p.180) – Today's reader is Bunty Kirk

Sermon

**We respond to God's word...**

Hymn: 258, When the hungry who have nothing share with strangers

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Offering and Time for Reflection

**We receive God's blessing...**

Hymn: 233, Come, you thankful people come

*(Following the welly walk children will be waiting in the Adam Room)*

Benediction

Choral Amen

**ST MICHAEL'S AMEN 3**



**10.30am**

### **Music for Today**

Today's organ music is by JS Bach (1685-1750).

**Before the Service:** Jesu, joy of man's desiring

**During the Offering:** Sheep may safely graze

**After the Service:** Toccata and Fugue in D minor

### **Baptisms today**

We are pleased to baptise and welcome into the fellowship of St Michael's today:

*Orla Poppy Darragh, daughter of Gillian and Mark  
Cameron Thomas David Keltie, son of Bethan and Kevin  
John Alexander Cumming, son of Fiona and David*

We commend them, their families and friends to your prayers

### **Notes on Today's Scripture**

#### **Psalm 126, 'May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy ...'**

The Songs of Ascent (Psalms 120–134) are a cycle of songs sung by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem for festivals of worship. Psalm 126 is a prayer to the Lord to 'restore the fortunes of Zion,' almost certainly a prayer to the Lord for the return of exiles from Babylon. The first stanza (vv. 1-3) rejoices in restoration; the second (vv. 4-6) looks forward through the tears of present pain to the joy of bringing home a new harvest. Singing their hearts out, God's people sustain hope for human flourishing through dry and difficult times.

#### **2 Corinthians 9: 6–15, Having enough, sharing abundantly**

Paul returns to his call to Gentile Christians to donate mightily to the collection for the mother Church in Jerusalem. He makes his case by weaving together the wisdom of the harvest (sow small, reap small; sow big, reap big, v.6) and the benefits of generosity ('you will be enriched in every way for your generosity,' v.11). The harvest is material and spiritual, a harvest of righteousness (v.10), supplying the needs of the Church (v.12), and bringing thanksgiving to God (vv.11–12).

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