

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH, LINLITHGOW
Sunday 8 October 2017



Today's Services

- 9.30am First Service
Rev Cheryl McKellar-Young
- 9.45am All age Service at Springfield School
- 11.00am Second Service
Rev Hilary Beresford

Welcome to St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow.

Thank you for joining us today. We hope that you feel at home here with us. **We would love to meet you so please join us for teas and coffees, between the morning services.** Children of nursery school age may join in with the Sunday Club, which goes out after the first 15 minutes to Cross House. A crèche is available at the 9.30am service in St Katherine's aisle for younger children. There is a supervised crèche in Room 1 of Cross House at 9.30am for parents who prefer this option. Please ask one of our team at the door for help if needed. If we can assist you in any other way following the service, please complete one of our pew cards. Thank you.

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"



We pray for all in the medical professions who work hard to care for us despite many pressures, and especially for all we know who are ill, whether at home or in hospital. We pray for their care and healing. After another terrible killing in the USA, we pray for the bereaved and the many wounded, for the emergency services and all who helped at risk to themselves.

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:

Church Office, Cross House, Linlithgow EH49 7AL
 Telephone: 01506 842188
 E-mail: info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk
 Web: www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk

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

Mon 9 Oct	9.00am	Elders	7.30pm	Guild
Tue 10 Oct	9.45am	Parent & Toddler Group	3.00pm 7.30pm	WL Foodbank Badminton Group
Wed 11 Oct			6.30pm	Girls' Brigade
Thu 12 Oct	10.00am 10.00am	Seedlings Thursday for Coffee	12 noon 6.30pm	Sing-along for Memory Boys' Brigade
Fri 13 Oct	9.45am 10.00am	Parent & Toddler Group Housegroup	2.00pm	WL Foodbank
Sat 14 Oct	9.30am	Bible@Breakfast		
Sun 15 Oct	9.45am	Crèche, Sunday Club & Bible Class	7.00pm	Youth Fellowship

Forthcoming Events

14 Oct	9.30am	Bible at Breakfast – Adam Room
28 Oct	10am	Cancer Research Coffee Morning
4 Nov	10am	Coffee Morning – Rhona MacRae (Project Trust Charity)
5 Nov	2pm	Music Buds - Church

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

Fellowship: We are very keen for people to share fellowship between services. If you are able, and would like to join us for tea or coffee, please leave your car in the Vennel car park.

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. Her theme is: Jesus and how we know who we are. 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

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.

"Just 10 – The Ten Commandments" Housegroup **Friday 13 October** at 10am in Cross House. **Session Six: "Keep the peace with your parents"**. Cuppa, cake and chat afterwards. All welcome. Contact Barbara Thomson (845705) if you would like more details.

Serving Him together

Guild meets on **Monday 9 October** in the Kirk Hall at 7.30pm when Stephanie Thomson, Outreach Officer, World Mission, will be telling the story of Jane Haining. Come along and join us. Old and new members very welcome.

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 October is 'The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed out the Window and Disappeared' by Jonas Jonasson. Anyone interested in joining us on **Thursday 2nd November** to discuss their thoughts on the book are most welcome. For more information, contact Sally Chambers 07732722146.

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. **Please note next meeting on Monday 6 November is in the Kirk.**

Life and Work: We will be placing our 2018 order for Life and Work in the next few weeks. If you would like to subscribe (or wish to cancel), please advise the church office by 15 November. **The annual subscription for 2018 is £27.36.**

Prayer News Bulletin Copies of Lorna Ferguson's Prayer News Bulletin are now available at the back of the church.

CD's-Church Service: If you would like to borrow a recording of previous services, you will find CDs at the Church shop. A recording of the sermon is to be found weekly on podcast on the Church website.

General Notices



Challenge Poverty Week 2017 takes place on 15 – 21 October 2017. To mark this, SCPO is compiling a short resource with a prayer for every day of the week. This will be an ecumenical resource with prayers supplied from a variety of denominations, and will be sent to the Advisory Group in advance of Challenge Poverty Week 2017. We would appreciate any publicity you can give to this resource. All information at SCPO website/challenge poverty

Crosswind: Many thanks to everyone who turned out on Wednesday morning to help with the magazine collation

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 12 October at 7.30pm in the Church. All welcome! Details from Andrew Sutherland (845 868) or any choir member.

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 - please note there are posters publicising events displayed on the notice board in the Kirk Hall servery.

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

Sunday 8 October 2017: 9.30am

We gather as the people of God...

Call to Worship

Hymn: 251, I the Lord of sea and sky

Scripture Sentences (*please remain standing*)

Prayer of Approach with Lord's Prayer

Time with Young People

Hymn: Our God is great big God

Prayers of Confession and Supplication

We listen to stories of faith and hope...

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21: 33-46 (p.22)

(Today's Reader is Rory Cameron)

Hymn: 506, All I once held dear

Sermon

We respond to God's word...

Hymn: 553, Just as I am

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Offering and Time for Reflection

We leave with God's blessing...

Hymn: 154, How great thou art

Benediction

Choral Amen: 819 Threefold

Two members of the Sunday Prayer Team are available for 15 minutes in the Queen's Aisle after this service to pray in confidence with anyone who has a personal need for prayer.

9.30am

Music for Today

Today's organ music is by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621), a famous organ virtuoso of his day in post-Reformation Amsterdam. He played in the Oude Kerk from 1577 (aged 15) until his death, having succeeded his father. In the Calvinist church, congregational singing was unaccompanied of course - however rather than rip the organs out as happened in Scotland, in Amsterdam they were retained and used before the Services to introduce the new Genevan Psalm tunes (and provide entertainment at other times!).

Before the Services – Variations on "Allein Gott in der Höh sei Her" (All praise to God on high)

During the Offering – Variations on "Mein junges Leben hat ein End" (My young life has an end)

After the Service – Variations on "Ballo del Granduca" (A dance tune by Cavalieri which was first performed at a huge Medici wedding in Florence in 1589 (the festivities lasted a month) – the Grand Duke is Ferdinando I de' Medici.)

Note on Today's Scripture

Matthew 21: 33-46

The reading we hear this morning at our 9.30am service called "the Wicked Tenants" is another parable that draws upon a parallel between the image of a vineyard and the kingdom of God. It continues the response of Jesus to the question about his authority and his rejection by the Chief Priests and scribes.

Jesus, himself no stranger to rejection, tells in today's Gospel parable about how God provided for his people only to meet with rejection. Then, the famous line is uttered: "The stone, which the builders rejected, has become the cornerstone." So, we have in Jesus, someone who knew full well the feeling and experience of rejection but never allowed the rejection to affect the building of the kingdom, making it, in fact, its very cornerstone. Most especially and most beautifully, Jesus our God incarnate, never allowed the rejection to stop Him from loving us.

Sunday 8 October 2017: 11.00am

We gather as the people of God...

Call to Worship

Hymn: 710, I have a dream

Scripture Sentences (*please remain standing*)

Prayers of Approach and Confession with Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 464, Though hope desert my heart

We listen to stories of faith and hope...

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7 (p.644)

(Today's Reader is Alison Murray)

Second Reading: Matthew 21: 33-46 (p.22)

Hymn: 709, The right hand of God

Sermon: "Are you sitting comfortably?....."

We respond to God's word...

Hymn: 621, Spirit of Jesus

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Offering and Time for Reflection

We leave with God's blessing...

Hymn: 261, Father, Eternal, Ruler of Creation

Benediction

Choral SOPRANO

Amen:

ST MICHAEL'S AMEN 1



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Notes on Today's Scripture

Isaiah 5:1-7

What begins as a simple, even simplistic, song about love gone wrong slides into a minor and discordant key. A harmless exercise in listening quickly turns painful as the audience is caught in a rhetorical trap. This passage is the prologue to Isaiah's commissioning in chapter six of his prophetic work amongst the Israelites. The message being that if the Israelites will not be God's people, then they will not be a people at all. God has invested heavily in his people, and the expectation is they will bear much fruit.

Matthew 21: 33-46

Matthew writes this parable whilst being a part of a fledging Christian movement that is a minority group; and it reads more like a desperate parent who attempts to reach out to a wayward child, than a businessman. God's love of each of us is this crazy! God repeatedly offers us his love not once, not twice, but repeatedly to all who will receive it. Jesus, as Matthew describes him is greater than our fears or insecurities, and manages to free himself from our bindings so that we might taste the mercy of God.