



St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



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Feast of St Bartholomew

Dear friends, as children return to school and the daylight hours shorten we are adapting to a new normal which is challenging. I hope that the readings and the prayers help us feel connected with other Christians and remind us of God's presence in all situations for all time.

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the apostle Bartholomew and below are the readings, the collect for the day, a very short reflection, prayers and a blessing.

Readings: Acts 5: 12 - 16; 1 Corinthians 4: 9 - 15;
Luke 22: 24 - 30

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who gave grace to your apostle Bartholomew to believe and preach your word: grant to your Church, we pray, both to love what he believed, and to preach what he taught; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Reflection:

'I am among you as one who serves'. I never cease to be humbled by the hidden truths of people's lives that only emerge after they have died. The stories people share of a family member or friend, often seemingly small incidents that had huge significance for the recipient. And sadly during the past few months opportunities for sharing these stories have been restricted, another comfort denied those who have lost loved ones during this hugely difficult time. But stories will out and people have written letters and cards and in so doing brought much comfort. Churches are places where many of God's faithful people quietly serve, not in any formal way, but in ways that make a difference, changing lives by dedication of love and care. And oh how too often it isn't until they have died that the extent of their quiet service is realised and mourned. People who are among us as those who serve, our two churches are full of them!



Bartholomew is one of these Apostles whose work in the service of Jesus, his risen Lord, is known only to God. He is named in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke as one of the disciples called by Jesus to follow him and there is a thought that Bartholomew may have been the same person as Nathanael who in John's gospel was brought to Jesus by Philip.

But what we do know is that Bartholomew shared with the other disciples the experience of following Jesus throughout his ministry. He must have witnessed all that Jesus did and said including his controversial encounters with the religious leaders. 'You are those who have stood by me in my trials' Jesus says of Bartholomew and the others before they all fail him by running away at the time of his greatest trials. Bartholomew must have heard again and again the teaching of Jesus that 'the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves' and he would have witnessed Jesus living out that teaching, 'I am among you as one who serves'.

We may know very little about Bartholomew as an individual but it is from him and the other apostles that we have received our faith in God's redeeming work in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Like the first believers, faithful Christians down the centuries have been devoted to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers and lived out their lives as those who serve. One such lady kept a well-worn prayer card in her bible, the lovely St Ignatius of Loyola prayer written nearly 1600 years after the life of Bartholomew and over 400 years before our lifetime; it is a prayer that extends beyond time and has the power to reach out across differences and break down barriers.

*Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to labour and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do your will. Amen.*

Prayers

Lord God, we bring you our thanks for the blessings you bestow upon us day by day. You called Bartholomew and the other apostles to a life of service and to be examples to Christians down the ages. Guide us in ways that we can be of service to others. May our small acts of service enable God's light to shine into the dark places of people's lives at this challenging and uncertain time. Give your Church a heart for service in this new way of living and being church. We pray for our church leaders, especially Mark our Primus and John our Bishop. For the churches in the communities where we live and serve and for our church families of St Columba's and St Peter's.

We ask your blessing upon our families, friends and neighbours and we hold up to you those connected with our church families who have asked for our prayers: from St Columba's: Kath Stutt, Iain Swanney, Cllr Harry Cartmill, Rev Duncan and Marjorie Shaw, Doug and Pat Laurie, Young Harry, Paul Moffat, Anthea and Katie McAlpin, Elma Webster and Geoffrey Gerrard (Andrew's father). And from St Peter's: Peter McOwen, Annie Gibbs (Olivia Moss's future mother in law), Anna Pink, Joe Lavery, Ronnie Adams, Chris Belton and Bob Philips (Jude and Andy's parents) Dot Pringle, Brenda Cook, Harry and Connie Payne, Father John, Ruthie Cadell, David Szkudlarek, and Jan Robson. And for all their families.

For all who have died in recent days and those who mourn. And we remember those connected with our church families whose anniversary of death falls this week: from St Columba's: James Paris and from St Peter's: Andrew Ramsay.

Blessing

God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Dear Friends,
Being the first full week back at school for our youngsters' new routines will be getting established that must require some planning!

I am pleased to report that our Sunday and weekday services are going well, people feel comfortable even if they have to wear masks. Services are shorter so that people don't become too uncomfortable and St Peter's 9.30 service last week was Zoomed live and that worked well too. It was rather strange looking out into the congregation gathered in church and then looking onto the screen to see those who joined us via Zoom! This will become our new 'normal'. For those attending on Zoom please make sure the

volume on your mobile/tablet/laptop/iPad etc is turned up to maximum to give you the best chance of hearing the service

Services for the coming week:

- Sunday morning St Peter's short said Eucharist @9.30am – **Zoomed live**
- St Columba's short said Eucharist @ 11.15am
- Tuesday morning St Peter's will be open from 10 – 12 noon
- Short said Eucharist 10.30 – 11am
- Private Prayer 11 – 12 noon
- Wednesday morning St Columba's will be open from 10 – 12 noon
- Short said Eucharist 10.30 – 11am
- Private Prayer 11 – 12 noon
- Prayer Room 11.30 – 12 noon

A reminder of St Columba's opening arrangements

The church will be maintaining a 2m separation between people (unless they are buddies). As such face coverings are not mandatory

You will be required to:

- Masks must be worn and taken home for disposal
- Hand Sanitise on arrival in the vestibule area
- Give name and contact phone number on entry to the church. (The sidesperson will record it on the computer)
- Follow the sides person's instruction as to where to sit.
- At the end of the service remain seated until instructed to leave via the meeting room.
- Sanitise hand on way out (sanitiser opposite toilet doors by fire alarm).
- Toilets will remain closed but if required the sides person must be notified in order that they can be sanitised after use.

A reminder of St Peter's opening arrangements

- The following simple rules should be followed which will give all who enter the church the confidence that everything is in place to ensure their safety and well-being.
- As we all know we are a small church and have space only for 10 to allow for the necessary 2-meter distancing. To ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to come to worship at least one a month an "opt in or out" option will be offered to the congregation. This will then let us work on a schedule which will be fair to everyone. **Jane Ramsay is the contact person (843176). PLEASE LET HER KNOW BY THURSDAY OF EACH WEEK.**
- A sides person will ensure that all hands are sanitized at the front door before entering the

- building. Please wait until invited into the church.
- Masks must be worn and taken home for disposal.
 - Entering and leaving the building will be by the red doors only.
 - You will be led back out of church by our sides person, this will be done from back to front of the church. Please wait to be invited to leave.
 - Hands should be sanitized when leaving church.
 - Our church has been deep cleaned and undergone a “fogging” process. The fogging will continue to be done every 30 days to ensure the building is as clean and germ free as is possible.
 - Toilets and *accessibility arrangements: Level access via the side door is available for those with mobility issues. A wheelchair accessible toilet is available if required and will be sanitised after use.*
 - Working together as we have done in the past and will continue to do now as we slowly begin to re-enter a new way of coming to church, we will keep each other and those in our community safe and well until the day comes when we gather together once more in St Peter’s as one large and very happy church family.

NB If you have any symptoms (temperature, cough, loss of taste or smell) you should not attend church and you should book a test

And a reminder for St Peter’s, that in order to avoid unexpected contacts, for the foreseeable future Jane Ramsay will be keeping a record of requests to enter the church. Please check with her beforehand to ensure that our little church will be empty and virus free before going in. Jane’s number is 843176

Pastoral visits – under phase 3 of the easing of lockdown came the possibility of my making pastoral visits again. If you would like me to visit you please do contact me. Ideally it would be best to meet in your garden or at a coffee shop perhaps but under certain circumstances, and if you were willing, I would come to visit you at home.

Lent seems such a long time ago doesn’t it! But way back then many people took away tubes of Smarties as part of The Bishop’s Lent Appeal for this year. I know that some tubes have been returned in both churches, thank you. If anyone has contributions to make to the two charities that Bishop John has invited us to support this year the appeal closes at the end of August. Please contact me if you would like me to collect your contribution if it isn’t possible for you to drop it off at church. A reminder of this year’s charities:

- The Open Door – an Edinburgh based project that aims to, through friendship and social clubs, reduce isolation and loneliness.
- Project Embabazi – a project in SW Uganda to enable development in a number of rural communities

Thank you everyone and please do keep well, keep safe.

Rev Christine

Foodbank:

I was asked if the Foodbank were still taking donations and of course they are. If anybody would like to make a food donation to the Foodbank could you deliver it to their offices at : **5 Heron Square, Deans, Livingston EH54 8QY. It is very easy to find. From Bathgate drive towards Edinburgh on the A89. Pass the Tesco recycling centre. At the next roundabout turn right up towards Deans. At the next roundabout take first exit then turn first left. You will then see the Foodbank about 200m down that road.** Thank you, David Graham-Service.

SEC Morning, Evening and Night Prayer Liturgies

Morning, Evening and Night Prayer daily liturgies are available at:
www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices

Rev Christine and Rev Peter will be saying Morning Prayer @ 9am and Evening Prayer @ 6pm each day in their own homes and invite you to join in from yours. On Thursday mornings we will be sharing a virtual service via Zoom. If you would like to join in, the link every week (until September 13) will be <https://zoom.us/j/756114372>

Any queries please contact Rev Peter pw@woodifield.com

For the coming week beginning Sunday 16th August we enter into the week of Pentecost 11.

*If you have a paper version of the big blue Prayer Book, for

Morning Prayer we will be using the form: Week A on p. 29. Follow the psalm set for the day in Set 2. Follow the Benedictus antiphon set for the day.

Evening Prayer we will be using the form: Week A on p. 64

*If you want to do it online by far the easiest way to do it is to click

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices/> which is updated three times a day for Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline

*If you just want to do the readings and collect for each day they are as follows. (The online version of Morning Prayer uses the first two readings and Evening Prayer the third, the Gospel.)

Sunday:	Exodus 4: 27 - 1: 1;	Hebrews 13: 16 - 21;	Luke 13: 10 - 17
Monday:	Job 4: 1, 5: 1 - 11, 17 - 21, 26 - 27;	Acts 9: 19b - 31;	John 6: 52 - 59
Tuesday:	Job 6: 1 - 4, 8 - 15, 21;	Acts 9: 32 - 43;	John 6: 60 - 71
Wednesday:	Job 6: 1, 7: 1 - 21;	Acts 10: 1 - 16;	John 7: 1 - 13
Thursday:	Job 8: 1 - 10, 20 - 22;	Acts 10: 17 - 33;	John 7: 14 - 36
Friday:	Job 9: 1 - 15, 32 - 35;	Acts 10: 34 - 48;	John 7: 37 - 52
Saturday:	Job 9: 1, 10: 1 - 9, 16 - 22;	Acts 11: 1 - 18;	John 8: 12 - 20

The Collect applies to both Morning and Evening Prayer each day.

Almighty and eternal God, by your generous love you grant to those who pray more than is desired or deserved: pour down your mercy upon us, forgiving what our conscience fears, and granting what we dare not ask; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Each day we pray for:

- The world: people, governments and leaders of the countries and specific issues arising in the news. Issues relating to social justice, peace, suffering and creation. And of course at this time for the devastating global covid-19 crisis.
- Our wider church, the SEC, our diocese, individual churches.
- Our community - residents in our area. For those with no faith, we pray for their introduction to the Christian faith, and for those with faith, that their faith may develop further.
- Those known to us who are unwell or in need.
- Our own church communities.



Clergy contact numbers:

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Rector's Wardens contact numbers:

David Graham Service – 07901947345

Jane Ramsay - 07982252666