



# St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



**Rector: Rev Christine Barclay**

The Rectory

85 Acredales

LINLITHGOW

EH49 6JA

Tel: 07964 175 914

**Curate: Rev Peter Woodfield**

Tel: 07747 023 108

*6<sup>th</sup> September 2020*  
*Pentecost 14*

**D**ear friends, the calendar has turned once more into a new month, the start of autumn; the signs of which we see all around us and in the shortening of the days. As we journey on through this very different year with so many challenges I hope that this coming Sundays readings, prayers and short reflection are helpful and hopeful.

### Readings

Ezekiel 33: 7 - 11; Romans 13: 8 - 14;

Matthew 18: 15 - 20

### Collect

**A**lmighty and eternal God, make us grow in faith, hope and charity: and that we may be worthy of your promises, cause us to love what you command; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

### Reflection

**W**EEK BY WEEK in the opening sentences of our worship we hear 'God is love and we are God's children. There is no fear in love. We love because God loved us first'. Yet it is so hard to tell someone that we think their behaviour is out of order isn't it? Especially so if this is a loved one. At the very thought of it self-doubt about judgement flood in as does the reminder of Christian principles of compassion and love. And in the end we often turn a blind eye or put it off for another day. But we do one another no kindness by turning a blind eye and a true friend is one who will say it as it is and call it out. How many times in our lives don't we wish someone had had the courage to challenge us on some issues!

Our gospel reading this morning has some practical advice for us in this delicate area. It speaks into our personal lives as well as the life of our church. Matthew places it in the teaching Jesus gives to his

followers about the kingdom of God. Jesus has just been telling the story of the great love and compassion of the shepherd who searches for the one lost sheep until he finds it. And it is in this context of total concern for each individual and God's loving commitment to the idea of rescue that we are told to discreetly take one another aside and talk over the problem with them. What follows in the gospel is a graded list of courses of action, which, in principle anyway, allow as much opportunity as possible for the matter to be treated discreetly and calmly, so as to avoid huge damage. Early intervention may be rewarded with a change of direction before the situation gets out of hand.

Jesus encourages his followers, us the church, to be a community that nurtures honest dialogue and refuses to keep silent in the face of behaviour that harms others. Its primary function is not a definite three step process to conflict resolution but more a model of how to walk alongside and protect those who are being disempowered or made vulnerable, enabling them to speak so that others may hear. For the flourishing of all God's children. But listening is hard and Jesus knows this; four times in the first three verses he makes reference to listening or refusing to listen. The repetition suggests that the call to hear one another, to listen closely to the truth from another, is a vital component of a community grounded in the ways of Jesus.

Jesus sets the bar high and does not let his followers off the accountability hook. But his pledge to be present with them through whatever comes is a promise that empowers them to live into their calling. Amen.

### Prayers

**L**ord God, we give thanks that you are with us throughout our lives, in the ups and downs, drawing us ever forward in your love.

We pray for our world at this time of huge uncertainty, for the ongoing global pandemic and the ramifications for the lives of so many.

We pray for your church around the world living out the gospel message of



love, forgiveness, justice and hope.

In the week that marks the end of the World War 2 we give thanks for the peace we enjoy and for all who work to ensure our safety and security. And we remember with gratitude all who gave their lives, and continue to give their lives, for our freedom.

We pray for all 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 keep our curate Peter in our prayers in the coming days as he undertakes his pre-ordination retreat.

Guide us in our relationships towards wholeness and peace, and give us the courage and integrity to confront the challenges in our relationships with love and respect. 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: Geoffrey Gerrard, Kath Stutt, Iain Swanney, Cllr Harry Cartmill, Rev Duncan and Marjorie Shaw, Doug and Pat Laurie, Young Harry, Paul Moffat, Anthea and Katie McAlpin and Elma Webster. And from St Peter's: Neil and Rita Manion (David's parents), Peter McOwen, Annie Gibbs (Olivia Moss's future mother in law), Anna Pink, Joe Lavery, Ronnie Adams, Chris Belton and Bob Philip (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.

We pray for all who have died in recent days including David Olwa's brother in law Jack Mulwa who died in Kenya on Monday evening, and all who mourn. And we remember those connected with our church families whose anniversary of death falls this week: from St Columba's: Ian Irvine, Tracy Engh, Colin Westworth and Francis Lawton and from St Peter's: Edmund Riley, Edith Beetham, Peggy Wood and Steven Robertson.

### Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

+ + +

Dear Friends,  
Well, September is upon us already and the nights are fair drawing in! Our church life continues in ways that are safe as this pandemic continues. It is lovely to see those who feel able to come to church but I fully appreciate that for some people this isn't the time yet. Hopefully our 9.30am live zoomed service from St Peter's each Sunday morning helps people feel connected and included. Week by week we endeavour to iron out the glitches and ask people to get in touch if they have any problems with accessing the service. Please make sure that your speaker volume is turned up to maximum.

For those taking part by Zoom, please note the extra attachment to the notices this week, which is the prayer said just before the Eucharist for those taking Communion spiritually.

Rev Peter's ordination to the priesthood is taking place on Tuesday September 22 at 5.30pm in St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. Because space is very limited, it looks like there will be roughly 10 spaces for St Peter's and 10 for St Columba's. If you would like to attend, would those from St Peter's please let Catherine Fowler know by email at [ctfowler15@gmail.com](mailto:ctfowler15@gmail.com). For those at St Columba's please let Jim Adamson know at [jim.adamson@live.com.au](mailto:jim.adamson@live.com.au). The two vestries have agreed that the names will be drawn by ballot. It is hoped that the service will be live-streamed for those unable to attend.

### 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).

### 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 sides person 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).

**The accessible toilet will be open but please follow the one-way system and follow the instructions for sanitising before and 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. We will continue to "fog" on a quarterly basis as recommended by the cleaning firm who will be professionally cleaning the church on a monthly basis for the foreseeable future.
- 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.

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

*Rev Christine*

**NOTICE ... ..**

Zoom Coffee and chat 28th September 11.15 ID 5111791282 password 3i1TYq - then fortnightly thereafter.

### **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](http://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](mailto:pw@woodifield.com)

For the coming week beginning Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September we enter into the week of Pentecost 14.

\*If you have a paper version of the big blue Prayer Book, for **Morning Prayer** we will be using the form: Week C on p. 35. 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 C on p. 70

\*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 14: 5 – 31;	Revelation 8: 1 – 15;	Matthew 6: 1 – 18
Monday:	Job 32: 1 –10, 19 – 33: 1, 19 – 28;	Acts 13: 44 – 52;	John 10: 19 – 30
Tuesday:	Job 29: 1 – 20;	Acts 14: 1 – 18;	John 10: 31 – 42
Wednesday:	Job 29: 1, 30: 1 – 2, 16 – 31;	Acts 14: 19 – 28;	John 11: 1 – 16
Thursday:	Job 29: 1, 31: 1 – 23;	Acts 15: 1 – 11;	John 11: 17 – 29
Friday:	Job 29: 1, 31: 24 – 40;	Acts 15: 12 – 21;	John 11: 30 – 44
Saturday:	Job 38: 1 – 17;	Acts 15: 22 – 35;	John 11: 45 – 54

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

Almighty and eternal God, make us grow in faith, hope and charity: and that we may be worthy of your promises, cause us to love what you command; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.



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:**

Rev Christine – 07964175914; 01334769303  
Rev Peter Woodfield – 07747023108

**Rector’s Wardens contact numbers:**

David Graham Service – 07901947345  
Jane Ramsay - 07982252666