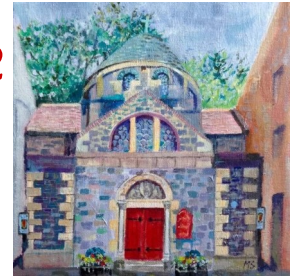




# St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



Rector: Rev Christine Barclay Curate: Rev Peter Woodifield

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*1<sup>st</sup> November 2020  
All Saints*

**D**ear friends, we are entering into the season of Remembrance in this very surreal year and learning to live with the restrictions on our lives. This Sunday we are celebrating the feasts of All Saints and All Souls and I do hope that the readings, prayers and short reflection make a connection with your lives.

### Readings

O.T.: Isaiah 56: 3 - 8  
N.T.: Hebrews 12: 18 - 24  
Gospel: Matthew 5: 1 - 12

### Collect

**A**lmighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: grant that we may attain, with all your saints, the whole measure of the fullness of Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

### Reflection

**A**ll Saints is one of the principal feasts in the life of the church; a day when we recall the enduring beauty of the faithful, both living and departed, and when we profess that, somehow, we are mysteriously bound together with them across time and space and context, by virtue of our common spiritual heritage.

For some reflecting on All Saints' is like reflecting upon a family, filled with discrete personalities, each living into their respective lives and callings, and yet bound by shared histories, customs, and relationships. For others, All Saints' is like a patchwork quilt, fashioned from unique swatches carefully stitched together over time, yielding an exquisitely singular source of warmth and comfort and home. For still others, All Saints' is like a team, comprised of participants from

diverse backgrounds who play their roles in coming together for a common purpose. The list of images goes on and on but each one ushers us into the mystery of being 'knit together' with the whole company of the faithful, even those who worship God on another shore and in a greater light.

All Saints' is a day steeped in meaning, in no small part, because it is a day saturated with stories, begging to be dusted off, read and reread. These stories are full of curious and complex characters who have been blinded or warmed or provoked by God's grace - each noteworthy in their own regard. And yet, for all their diversity, these stories are sheltered under the same roof, protected by the same walls, confirmed and strengthened by the same divine love.

Over the centuries, the church has identified the lives of the saints as tangible expressions of the beatitudes, of bodies who are poor in spirit, who mourn, who hunger and thirst for righteousness, who pursue peace. And it is so fitting that our gospel reading this morning is from the first section of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, the section concerned with the beatitudes. And though Jesus uttered

these words millennia ago, they still demand our attention and prayer. In fact, at this time, as we live through this pandemic, they demand our attention even more. We should digest them steadily and slowly as we let them find their way into our hearts, or as one writer put it 'chew long enough and we will be bound to find some bits that are very tough to swallow. For they can embarrass our well-intentioned pursuits of holiness. For those of us who are not sufficiently poor or persecuted or actively brokering peace, Jesus' teaching can leave us stuck between a rock of apathy and the hard place of shame. But we are not alone; throughout history theologians, priests, pastors, spiritual writers have bumped up against them and continue to do so. Martin Luther



named the beatitudes a measuring stick of sin, revealing just how far each has fallen short of God's glory while others have focused on the almost infinite distance between this new law and those who are to be shaped by it. And while many have lamented the beatitudes as too heavenly to be of earthly good, others have seen them as Jesus seeking flourishing not judgement, not to be read as primarily about moral obligation but as signposts of true happiness. For me this is the one that speaks into my heart – paths for us to follow as we go through our lives.

While many have lamented the beatitudes as too heavenly to be of earthly good, there are others who have seen them as Jesus' answer to the age-old question of what constitutes human fulfilment. In other words, Jesus is not after judgment, rather he is after flourishing. We might read the beatitudes not as primarily about moral obligation, but as signposts of true happiness. In that way, they mark out our paths as a people of faith, guiding us we go about our days. Jesus seems to say 'here are the things that make you happy, take them in, trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you on the way. Surely this is what we see over and over in the lives of the saints – individuals who sought the narrow path of poverty, meekness, service and along the way their ordinary lives unfolded page by grace filled page.

Someone said that the saints are those for whom God's love has seeped into the cracks and crevices of their lives encouraging them to look at themselves, the world and God in new ways. Their stories remind us of how God has worked with, and will continue to work with, generation after generation in the church for the growing of God's Kingdom. It is a beautiful deep mystery that this day we count ourselves members of this great family of faith. It is a deep and beautiful mystery that we are invited to join our stories to and the stories of the loved ones from our lives who we commemorate, and give thanks for, this weekend.

### Prayers

**L**ord of life and hope we join our prayers with the saints in glory. Acknowledging that we share in a communion with a great cloud of witnesses lift our hearts to the heavenly places. Fill us with a vision of your eternal splendour and draw us deeper into the reign of your Kingdom. We give thanks for all who have served in our churches in the past and for the inheritance of faith and prayer. May we be faithful witnesses to your light and hope in our time. Confident of Christ's victory on the cross we remember in love all who have died and all whose names we commemorate today. May we come to share in the eternal banquet of your Son Jesus Christ. Give us thankful hearts for his redeeming love. We continue to pray for our leaders and their advisers to have real wisdom in their decision-making in the coming days, weeks and months. We pray for your Church living out the gospel message of love, forgiveness, justice and hope. Pour your blessing upon 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 pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit at this hugely challenging time and for those from our church families who have asked for our prayers, particularly Anthea McAlpin who has now been in hospital for the past four weeks and for Eric Dobson recovering at home after a heart procedure.

**And 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, Katie McAlpin and Elma Webster.

**And from St Peter's:** Rita Manion (David's mother), Annie Gibbs (Olivia Moss's future mother in law), Barry Greig (Terry's twin brother), 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 and for all who mourn. And we remember those connected with our church families whose anniversary of death falls this week. From St Columba's: Elizabeth Allen, William (Bill) Starritt and Andrew Harrison. And from St Peter's: Frederick Howard, Robert Christie, Cranston McIndoe, Jim Butler and Rachel Pritchard.

### Blessing

**T**he God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

### Notices

**D**ear Friends, I do hope that you and your families are keeping well and keeping your spirits up in these very challenging times. By the times these notices are with you we will know which level in the five-tier lockdown area we are going to be in and then working out how we live our lives within these ongoing restrictions.

The clocks have changed, the trees are losing their leaves and we enter into the season of Remembrance which begins this Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November with our celebration of **All Saints and All Souls**. As is our custom in marking All Souls Day we will be, after Communion, reading out the names of our dearly departed. Under normal circumstances we would have a sheet in both churches for people to add names but this year can you please email me [chirstine.barclay28@gmail.com](mailto:chirstine.barclay28@gmail.com) or phone me 01506646069 or phone/message me on 07964175914 with the names of loved ones you would like to be included. I won't be finalising lists until Saturday evening! The following Sunday – 8<sup>th</sup> November is **Remembrance Sunday**. The Act of Remembrance will begin at just after 10.55 in St Columba's and immediately followed by our Sunday Eucharist. In St Peter's the Eucharist will begin

30 minutes later than usual at 10am and will continue up to the Act of Remembrance at 11am.

Like so many things this year, the **Poppy Appeal** has had to adapt the way it reaches out to attract our support. We can donate on line at: [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk) and there is a collecting can and box of poppies in St Peter's. Life as we know it has been so curtailed in recent months but the life of the church goes on and we are now in the season of our **AGM's**. As I am required canonically to do, I give notice that St Peter's has set the date for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November for its AGM which will follow our Eucharist. Copies of the annual accounts and all reports will be available on-line and in paper format well in advance. Our constitution states that one person steps down from vestry each year and Sue Rippon, having faithfully and cheerfully served 6 years, is taking the opportunity to step down. This leaves one position to be and nomination forms will be available in church from Sunday and from Catherine our Vestry Secretary [ctfowler15@gmail.com](mailto:ctfowler15@gmail.com) to whom all completed nomination forms should be returned. Please remember that the person nominating requires the agreement of the person they are nominating and also a seconder. If having read the reports you have a question or comment it would be very helpful to have them in advance as our AGM will be streamed live on Zoom for those who are unable to attend in person and also for those who aren't able to be with us in person or via the virtual world. Please do send your comments or questions to Catherine - email details above

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November St Peter's will be having a short **Family Service** @ 12.30. This will be a bookable service so please do get in touch with Jane if you and your family would like to attend and more details to follow next week.

St Columba's AGM will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November, more details in next week's notices. In Advent Rev Peter will be running a study based on Paula Gooder's book 'Journey to the Manger'. It will be on Zoom, making it easier for people to participate, and he will be trying to make it more interactive. Please let Peter know by email ([pw@woodfield.com](mailto:pw@woodfield.com)), mobile (07747023108), WhatsApp, or in person if you would like to join. Friday afternoons seemed to suit most people, but he is open to alternative suggestions. In any event it will run for four weeks starting in the last full week of November.

From Tuesday afternoon until Thursday lunchtime next week (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>) Rev Peter and I would normally be away with Bishop John and our diocesan colleagues to the Annual Clergy Conference. However, getting way is out of the question this year but not to be deterred we are having a virtual conference via Zoom, we will report back on how that works! But it does mean that Peter and I won't be available quite as readily as normal but I will be checking messages and emails at points during the day and David and Jane are on hand. I will be leading St Peter's worship on Tuesday morning and David Graham Service will be leading at St Columba's on Wednesday with a Reserved Sacrament service.

Sunday morning services from St Peter's @ 9.30 continue to be Zoomed live. Those who are joining us from home are asked to ensure that your speaker volume is turned up to maximum; and there is a separate attachment in the notices of a Eucharist prayer that you may like to say as you receive Communion spiritually. **IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE.** You now will need a passcode to join the Zoom service (this is due to Zoom's security upgrade). The meeting code is unchanged at 118 321 305. The passcode you need is 670383. Judy Goldfinch will send round the embedded link with the weekly list of Zoom codes.

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 - 11.30 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: Wear masks and take them 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. Tuesday morning and Sunday morning services are now well attended. If you would like to have a place at either of the services, please contact Jane Ramsay who will ensure that the places are fairly distributed each week. Tel 843176 or email her [jane.ramsay48@gmail.com](mailto:jane.ramsay48@gmail.com).

**PLEASE LET HER KNOW BY THURSDAY OF EACH WEEK**

- A sides person will ensure that all hands are sanitised 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 – sadly, the new guidelines mean that pastoral visits to people’s homes, including for home communion, are not possible at this time, except in extreme circumstances. Hopefully this restriction won’t be for too long. And please remember that I hold you all in my prayers. Also, at this time we have been advised by the Bishop’s Advisory Group that giving lifts to people, out-with your household, to church is not possible either at this time. This is slightly different to the government guidelines which say ‘not advised’.

Zoom Coffee and chat once a fortnight on a Monday morning. Next one will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> November @ 11.15. ID 5111791282 password 3i1TYq.

Please look after yourselves and keep well and safe.

*Rev Christine*

## 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 will be <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/756114372?pwd=ZXpMWndaY210empVY1daL09paGltwZz09>

Any queries please contact Rev Peter [pw@woodifield.com](mailto:pw@woodifield.com)

For the coming week beginning Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November we enter into the week of Pentecost 22.

\*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: Daniel 2: 1 – 11, 25 – 48;          | Ephesians 1: 11 – 23;      | Matthew 5: 1 – 12 |
| Monday: Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 38: 24 – 34 | Revelation 14: 1 – 13;     | Luke 12: 49 – 59  |
| Tuesday: Ecclesiasticus 43: 1 – 22;         | Revelation 14: 14 – 15: 8; | Luke 13: 1 – 9    |
| Wednesday: Ecclesiasticus 43: 23– 33;       | Revelation 16: 1 – 11;     | Luke 13: 10 – 17  |
| Thursday: Ecclesiasticus 44: 1 –15;         | Revelation 16: 12 – 21;    | Luke 13: 18 – 30  |
| Friday: Ecclesiasticus 50: 1, 11 – 24;      | Revelation 17: 1 – 18;     | Luke 13: 31 – 35  |
| Saturday: Ecclesiasticus 51: 1 – 12;        | Revelation 18: 1 – 14;     | Luke 14: 1 – 11   |

The Collects applies to both Morning and Evening Prayer.

***The Collect for All Saints Day:***

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: grant that we may attain, with all your saints, the whole measure of the fullness of Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

***The Collect for All Souls Day:***

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer: grant them your peace, let light perpetual shine upon them, and in your loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

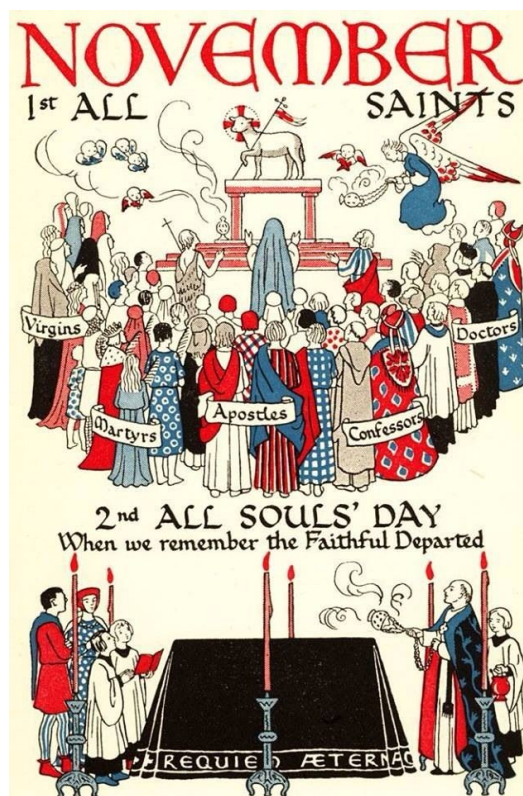


***The Collect for the rest of the week:***

O Lord, watch over your household with constant love: that with you as our shelter your family may be free from all distress, and devoted to good works for the glory of your name; 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:**

Rev Christine – 07964175914; 01334769303

Rev Peter Woodfield – 07747023108

**Rector's Wardens contact numbers:**

David Graham Service – 07901947345

Jane Ramsay - 07982252666