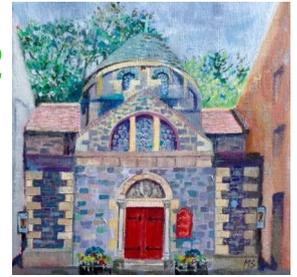




St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



Rector: Rev Christine Barclay

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**3rd October 2021
Harvest Festival**

DEAR FRIENDS, this Sunday we are celebrating our Harvest Thanksgiving Service and our readings, the prayers and the reflection focus on having thankful hearts for God's steadfastness in proving all that we need in life. I hope that they make a connection with you.

Collect

GOD, IN WHOM ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE, you crown the year with your goodness and give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, so that none may hunger, none may thirst, and all may cherish the gifts of your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Deuteronomy 8: 7 – 18
2 Corinthians 9: 6 – 15
Matthew 6: 25 - 33

Reflection

OUR HARVEST FESTIVALS are traditionally a time for thanking God for everything that God gives us and giving something back to God that can give happiness to other people.

Traditionally we have always thought of the good, agricultural, harvest - the produce that has been grown and harvested – physical foodstuffs like apples and potatoes, for the grain from the fields and our churches will be decorated with them this coming Sunday. This year some of our harvest gift will be given to the Falkirk Food Bank to provide emergency provisions for those in need in our community and some to the Bathgate Memory Café that supports sufferers from dementia and their carers. For harvest time is also a time to thank God for the fruits of the spirit grown in those who support and work for

our cafes, for God provides for both.

All three of our readings this week remind us of our loving and bountiful God who, if we trust in him will provide all we need. In Deuteronomy, Moses is preparing the Israelites for the day when they will enter the Promised Land. They will need to remember that they did not enter that land on their own. It is God who is bringing them into that land, it is God who will help them overcome the challenges and provide for their needs in that land. And in our gospel passage Matthew takes this further saying that Jesus commands his disciples not to worry about their needs, what they will eat, drink or wear. In the previous verse Jesus taught the disciples not to store up treasures on earth, neither should they be consumed with worry about their needs, as God will provide for them. Society has changed a great deal since the time of Jesus.

Definitions of poverty, wealth, and the good life are much different today than they were then. Media reports are replete with heart rending effects of poverty, homelessness and climate change worldwide to say nothing of the 'first world' crisis we are facing here with the shortage of delivery drivers and the prospect of a very challenging winter for many people with increased energy and food costs. As a result, we live with conflicting messages and concerns that distract us and divide our loyalties. We seek security and stability and are rightly concerned about the future both for ourselves and others. Having concern though is good for it helps us to be diligent and prudent with regard to all aspects of life. And concern it has to be, rather than worry, for worry can paralyse us and inhibit us from using our gifts and talents for the growing of God's Kingdom with love in our hearts.

But
SEEK FIRST
the
Kingdom
of
GOD
and His righteousness,
and all these things
shall be added to you.
Matthew 6:33

Paul in his letter to the people of Corinth urged them to follow through on their previous generosity to meet the needs of Christians in Jerusalem. He speaks to them about both the receiver and giver receiving gifts from generosity, the latter receiving spiritual gifts, that the more they give out of hearts full of Christlike love, the more that love will bear fruit. What an important message to us the Harvest weekend amid all the challenges we face. Let us open up our hearts to reach out to others each and every day and give thanks for the many blessings God bestows upon us day by day and the gifts of the spirit that he grows within us.



Young Harry and Paul and Janice Moffat.

And from St Peter's Pat and Jim Bryce, Gordon Dumayne, Anna Lovelock, Kathleen Rae (Anne's friend), Cisley Moss, Peter and Marilyn McOwan, Harry and Connie Payne, Rita Manion (David's mother), Annie and Andy Gibb's (Olivia's in-laws), Bob Philip (Andy's father), Dot Pringle, Brenda Cook, Father John, Ruthie Caddell, David Szkudlarek, Jan Robson, and for all their families.

Prayers

CREATOR GOD, we thank you for the splendour and beauty of creation; for the ordered succession of seasons; for your love which made the world. We thank you for the good and fertile earth; for the fruits of the earth in their seasons; for the life that sustains our life; for the food that we daily enjoy. We thank you for those whose labour supplies our physical needs; for those who harvest our crops, those who transport them, those who process them, those who sell them. Loving Lord, we pray for those who have no harvest to celebrate, no crops to gather, or labour to pursue. We pray for those who live on land that is hard to farm, scratching out a living in a hostile soil, amidst rocky ground and scorching earth.



We pray for those who have no living from the earth and for those who have left their homes, driven by war or want, to become refugees, dependent on others. We pray for a sustainable resolution to the delivery crisis and for workable policies to help our nation and its citizens play our part in reducing our carbon footprint. We pray for your Church worldwide, especially for those who are persecuted for following Jesus. We pray for Mark our Primus and the College of Bishops, for John our Bishop and for all the charges and communities of our diocese. We ask your blessing on the churches of Bathgate and Linlithgow, for the projects and the journeys we share with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray for the pain of the world, for all in need of your healing grace.

We continue to pray for Rev Ruth Innes and Clare Armes and those from our church families who have asked for our prayers:

From St Columba's Jim Marshall, Katrina Barron, Tom and Rose MacLaren, Brian Knotts, Lorna Aitken, Kath Stutt, Anthea and Katie McAlpin, Geoffrey and Hazel Gerrard, Doug and Pat Lawrie,

We pray for those who have died in recent days, for Mark Strudwick, and for all who mourn. May they know the comfort of your presence. We remember those connected with our church families whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

From St Columba's Margaret Philp, Eric Clarke, John Kerr, Helen Simpson, James Brown and Emma Bell.

From St Peter's Elizabeth Harper, Father Alfred Apeto, John de la Rue, Madeline Harvey, Allan Melville and Eileen Robertson.

Blessing

God give you grace to be faithful stewards of Creation, rejoicing that you are made in God's image, and seeking justice for those who do not share in the earth's bounty, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you, and remain with you always.



Notices

THE BALMY SEPTEMBER DAYS are giving way to cooler more changeable ones as we turn the calendar into a new month. A reminder that nature is preparing to rest. This Sunday we are celebrating our Harvest Festival – details further on in the notices. Thankfully covid numbers appear to be levelling off but we continue to err on the side of caution with the aim of ensuring that people feel safe and don't have to sit too close to their neighbour especially as covid numbers continue to give cause for concern. Please do continue to get in touch with Jane – 843176 if you wish to attend Sunday worship in St Peter's as we are still limited to 22 available places.

Services of the coming week:

Harvest Festival Sunday 3rd October:

St Peter's @ 9.30am and

St Columba's @ 11.15am.

St Peter's Family Service @ 1pm

Tuesday 5th – St Peter's midweek worship @ 10.30am

Wednesday 6th – St Columba's midweek worship @ 10.30am

Mark Strudwick

IT WAS WITH GREAT SHOCK AND SADNESS that we learned on Sunday morning of the death of Mark after a short illness. He and Sue have been members of St Peter's for a number of years and since the first lockdown have been very regular members of the Zoom community who shared our worship week by week from home. We keep Sue, their family and their friends in our prayers.

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival this weekend with a new Harvest Liturgy. Services at our usual times with a service at 1pm for St Peter's children and parents. This year St Columba's has chosen to support the reopening of The Bathgate Memory Café, which has not been able to meet during the Covid Pandemic. St Peter's will be, once again, supporting the work of the Falkirk Food Bank. Please see details below of how financial donations can be made to both causes and a list of foodstuffs suitable for donating to the Foodbank:

Financial donations can be brought to church and left in the plate, please mark envelopes 'Harvest Donations'. Sending cheques: for St Peter's: a cheque payable to "St Peter's Episcopal Church" to John Aitken, Sulisker, Boghall, Linlithgow EH49 7GR will be most welcome. Or you can pop it, in the form of cash or a cheque, through Judy Goldfinch's letterbox at 1 Royal Terrace. You should write "Harvest Donations" on the back, so that Judy knows what it is for. For St Columba's: a cheque, payable to "St Columba's Episcopal Church" to Danielle Dewhurst, 31 New Holygate, Broxburn EH52 5RN. Please mark it "Harvest Donations" on the back. St Peter's have a Just Giving Campaign for those who wish to contribute on line and St Columba's are invited to contribute in this way too if they wish. Contributions can be made by going to: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/harvest-thanks>. For those who use Internet banking: St Peter's: into St Peter's bank account, with the reference "HARVEST": Bank of Scotland, Linlithgow Account St Peter's Episcopal Church, Sort Code: 80-17-37 Account No. 00293233. St Columba's: St Columba's bank account, with the reference "HARVEST": Royal Bank of Scotland, Account: St Columba's Episcopal Church Bathgate. Sort Code: 83-16-05 Account No: 00213096.

Foodstuffs that would be welcomed for the Foodbank (for St Peter's Harvest Service) are:
Good tins of meat; Tins of fish eg tuna; Sponge puddings; Tins custard; Tinned fruit;
Tins of spaghetti in tomato sauce (very low on stock of this); Jars of marmalade or jam; Tinned potatoes.

Most of the people the Foodbank support are families who are really struggling to make ends meet. A little treat or two for the children would be very welcome.

Occasionally @ St Michael's is a series of recitals by local musicians. Admission is free with donations invited for church funds. On Sunday 17th October from 3 – 4pm Alison on viola and Alan Hastie on piano will perform Mozart Piano Sonata in F, Biber Passacaglia 'The Guardian Angel' and Vieuxtemps Sonata for Viola and Piano.

The latest edition of '**The Communicant**' (the Edinburgh diocesan news sheet) is available now on the Diocesan website, via this link: <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/publications/thecommunicant/> Also available on St Columba's website.

Pastoral Visiting: If you would like me to come and visit, or if you know of someone who would appreciate a visit, please do let me know. Please be assured that I hold you all in my prayers each and every day.

Rev Christine

SEC Morning, Evening and Night Prayer Liturgies

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

Rev Christine will be saying Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer each day at home and invites you to join in from yours.

On Thursday mornings at 9am a virtual service will be shared via Zoom™. If you would like to join in, the link every week will be:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/756114372?pwd=ZXpMWndaY210empVY1daL09paGluZz09>
Meeting ID: 991 1810 8400 Passcode: 143983

For the coming week beginning on Pentecost 19 (Trinity 18). On Sunday we celebrate Harvest, on Monday we celebrate Francis of Assisi, Deacon and Friar, 1226, on Friday we celebrate Alexander Penrose Forbes, Bishop, 1875

Sunday 3rd	Week D	Proverbs 2:1-11	1 John 2:1-17	Mark 10:2-16
Monday 4 th	Week D	2 Kings 21:1-18	1 Corinthians 10:14 - 11:1	Matthew 8:28-34
Tuesday 5 th	Week D	2 Kings 22:1-13	1 Corinthians 11:2, 17-22	Matthew 9:1-8
Wednesday 6 th	Week D	2 Kings 22:14 - 23:3	1 Corinthians 11:23-34	Matthew 9:9-17
Thursday 7 th	Week D	2 Kings 23:4-25	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Matthew 9:18-26
Friday 8 th	Week D	2 Kings 23:36 - 24:17	1 Corinthians 12:12-26	Matthew 9:27-34
Saturday 9th	Week D	Jeremiah 35:1-19	1 Corinthians 12:27 - 13:3	Matthew 9:35 - 10:4

The Collect for the week Proper 27 Sunday between 2nd and 8th October except Sunday and Monday

O Lord, we beseech you: give your people grace to turn away from evil; and to follow you, the only God, in pureness of heart and mind; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end

Harvest Sunday 3rd October

Almighty and eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory; so that none may hunger, none may thirst, and all may cherish the gifts of your creation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Francis of Assisi, Deacon and Friar, 1226 Monday 4th October

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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.



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