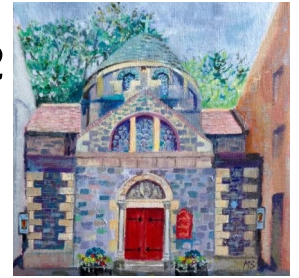




# St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



Rector: Rev Christine Barclay

The Rectory  
85 Acredales  
LINLITHGOW  
EH49 6JA  
Tel: 07964 175 914

12<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
Pentecost 16

**D**EAR FRIENDS, this Sunday's readings focus on loving obedience to God the hope of healing to wholeness. I hope that they and the prayers and reflection make a connection with you.

### Collect

**G**UARD YOUR CHURCH, O Lord, with your perpetual mercy: and since without your aid we lose our way, draw us always, by your help, away from harm and steer us towards salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

### Readings

Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a  
James 3: 1 – 12  
Mark 8: 27 - 38

### Reflection

**T**HIS PAST 18 MONTHS OR SO we have pretty much been obedient to the restrictions placed on our lives through the Covid pandemic and while we are all tired of living in such limited ways somehow or other many of us are emerging reasonably intact. But it has been a struggle whether we live alone or share a house with boisterous children and pets, never mind working from home and home schooling. Most of us through the long journey recognised the importance of protecting ourselves and others even if the obedience aspect was hard to swallow. The prophet in the book of Isaiah speaks of the figure of the Servant being in complete loving obedience to God, and his hearers would understand that here is someone of perfect wisdom and harmony with God, humble and courageous enough to do what is required a Saviour, whatever the personal cost.

Though the people might well rebel in full-blooded human style, they recognised the importance and good sense of obedience. From the letter of

James, we read of the early Church being properly told off by the exasperated elder who has obviously come across yet another disaster cause by ill-disciplined tongues. The tongue may be a small organ but it is capable of so much harm we do well to heed James' passionate outburst. The example we do best to follow of course is Jesus himself; in our gospel passage we meet him at the point where his disciples are beginning to grasp who he is, and he starts to explain all that this will involve.

Of course, it is too much for his friends and if Jesus isn't going to protest about what the future holds, then they will, Peter once again being their spokesperson, trying to stop Jesus from taking the course of action that he has too, they wanted him to avoid trouble and play safe. Thankfully Jesus stands firm and with startling honesty lays out the obedience needed for all potential followers. No one could ever say they were induced to follow Jesus by false pretences, by the offer of an easy way. The great theologian William Barclay speaks of honesty being one of the great characteristics of great leaders, that in the days of the Second World War, when Sir Winston Churchill took over the leadership of the country, all that he offered was 'blood, toil, tears and sweat'. Jesus sought to challenge men and women, to waken the boldness and moral courage in their souls.

He came not to make life easy but to challenge people to greatness and he never called on anyone to do or face anything which he was not prepared to

do and face himself. This too is the characteristic of a leader whom people will follow. Jesus said to those who would be his disciples 'let them deny themselves' in other words let them say 'no' to self, and yes to Christ, 'no' to our own natural love of ease and comfort and 'yes' to the voice and the command of Jesus. To be able to say with Paul 'it is no longer I that live but it is Christ who lives in me'. To live no longer following our own will, but



to follow the will of Christ, in whose service we find perfect freedom.

### Prayers



**G**RACIOUS LORD, empower your Church worldwide to follow Christ in all things we pray, unafraid of the hard demands of the Gospel. We ask

your blessing upon our Scottish Episcopal Church, on Mark our Primus, John our Bishop and the charges and communities of our diocese. Take from your people all idle gossip and evil speaking, that the purity of our witness may not be corrupted. Fill with the love of truth those who influence the minds of others and give journalists and broadcasters the desire to make known the good as well as the bad. Guard our speaking as we meet with others – our families, our friends and neighbours, and the stranger and we pray for all who suffer from slander and false accusations.

Creator God as we draw closer to COP26 remind us of our responsibilities to our planet, guide our world leaders and all with influence to put the needs of the future of our planet ahead of short-term gain projects. We ask your blessing upon farmers and growers bringing in the harvest and for those responsible for the distribution of food and other goods around our country and beyond. Loving God, we pray for all who suffer in body mind or spirit, for your healing grace to be poured liberally upon them. 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 & Rose MacLaren, Brian Knotts, Lorna Aitken, Kath Stutt, Anthea & Katie McAlpin, Geoffrey Gerrard, Doug & Pat Lawrie, Young Harry and Paul & Janice Moffat.

**And from St Peter's** Pat and Jim Bryce, Gordon Dumayne, Anna Lovelock, Kathleen Rae (Anne's friend), Cisley Moss, Michael Patrick (Ruthie's friend), Peter & Marilyn McOwan, Harry & Connie Payne, Rita Manion (David's mother), Annie & 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.

Merciful God we pray for the souls of the departed and for all who mourn and we remember those connected with our church families whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

**From St Columba's** Francis Lawton, Robert Muir and Violet Walker.

**From St Peter's** Steven Robertson, Bertha Bird, Herbert Pain, Jack Rothwell, Helen Jamieson, Irene Jeffrey, David Hardie, Brian Meeney and Marjory Ruth Wallis.



### Blessing

**T**HE 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, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.



### Notices

**T**HE LATE SUMMER WEATHER CONTINUES as we journey further into September, such a blessing at this time of year. In church we continue to err on the side of caution ensuring that people feel safe and not having 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:

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September** – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: St Peter's @ 9.30am and St Columba's @ 11.15am.

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>** – St Peter's midweek worship @ 10.30am

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>** – St Columba's midweek worship @ 10.30am

### Doors Open Days 2021

St Peter's Church will be open this Open Doors weekend:

Saturday 10 – 12 and 2 – 4pm

Sunday 2 – 4pm

### Life Together

The deadline for contributions to the next edition of our magazine is this coming Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September, our editor Peter Lewis will be so pleased to receive them: [petethepod@gmail.com](mailto:petethepod@gmail.com)

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/thecomunicant/>

### 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.

### SEC Morning, Evening and Night Prayer Liturgies

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

Rev Christine will be saying Morning Prayer and

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=ZXpMWndaY210empVY1daL09paGwZz09>

Meeting ID: 991 1810 8400 Passcode: 143983

For the coming week beginning on Pentecost 16 (Trinity 15). On Monday we celebrate Cyprion of Carthage, Bishop and Martyr, 258, on Tuesday we celebrate Holy Cross Day, on Thursday we celebrate Ninian of Whithorn, Bishop, 432, on Friday we celebrate Hildegard of Bingen, Abbess, 1179

Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Week A	Ezekiel 20:1-8, 33-44	Acts 20:17-38	Mark 8:27-38
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Week A	1 Kings 21:1-16	1 Corinthians 1:1-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Festivals	1 Kings 21:17-29	1 Corinthians 1:20-31	Matthew 4:12-17
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Week A	1 Kings 22:1-28	1 Corinthians 2:1-13	Matthew 4:18-25
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Festivals	1 Kings 22:29-45	1 Corinthians 2:14 - 3:15	Matthew 5:1-10
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Week A	2 Kings 1:2-17	1 Corinthians 3:16-23	Matthew 5:11-16
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Week A	2 Kings 2:1-18	1 Corinthians 4:1-7	Matthew 5:17-20

**The Collect for the week Proper 25** Sunday between 18 and 24 September except Tuesday and Thursday.

O Lord, let your constant compassion cleanse and strengthen your Church: and since, without you, we cannot continue in safety, may we ever be governed by your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

#### **Holy Cross Day Tuesday 14 September**

O God, whom it has pleased to redeem the human race through the precious blood of your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: mercifully grant, that we, who rejoice in the life-giving Cross, might die to our sins and live for righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end

#### **Ninian of Whithorn, bishop Thursday 16 September**

Almighty God, who through the preaching of your holy bishop, Ninian, made the light of the gospel shine in our land: grant that we too, by that same gospel, may be filled with the light of your truth, and come to know the joys of the heavenly life; 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.



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**Clergy contact number:**  
Rev Christine – 07964175914

**Rector's Wardens contact numbers:**  
David Graham Service – 07901947345  
Jane Ramsay - 07982252666