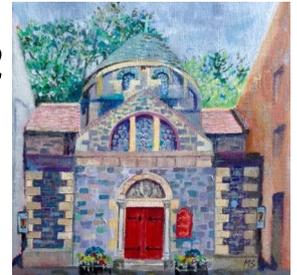




St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



Rector: Rev Christine Barclay

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

9th January 2022
Baptism of our Lord

DEAR FRIENDS, as we journey on through this Christmas season, we celebrate the Baptism of Christ this Sunday. I hope that the readings, prayers and short reflection of God confirming Jesus' identity and his calling have something hopeful to say to you as we continue through these challenging times with Covid.

Collect

ETERNAL FATHER, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we, being born again, and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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.

Readings

Isaiah 43: 1 – 7
Acts 8: 14 – 17
Luke 3: 15 – 17, 21 – 22

Reflection

CHOOSING NAMES FOR OUR CHILDREN is an important task, and one which other family members are often very happy to help with! Using one another's names in conversation is an important way of emphasising our relationship with them which is unique and often very precious. And for me who has difficulty in remembering names, a way of fixing their names in my memory! To be known by name indicates a closeness of relationship which as human beings we value. In the Easter story it is hearing her name spoken by Jesus that makes Mary Magdalene realise that she is in his presence and as the Isaiah passage reminds us, God has called each of us by name; he knows and loves us as individuals, with our own unique mix of gifts and personalities.

The redemption he brings is personal as are the answers to our individual deepest needs. We are told that in Jesus' baptism the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove, as he stood praying. God was confirming Jesus' identity as his Son, with whom

he was well pleased, and affirming his calling as Saviour of the world. Each year as we celebrate the Baptism of Christ, we are offered the opportunity to remember that our baptism is not just our decision to commit ourselves to Christ, often undertaken on our behalf by our parents and godparents, it is also a time to remember God's calling to each one of us by name. The late, much loved Archbishop Desmond Tutu spoke of the image of each one of us uniquely held in the palm of God's hand, what a beautiful image for us to hold onto. Amen.

Prayers

LET US BRING OUR PRAYERS to our loving God who creates, forms and redeems us and who calls each of us by name. We pray for God's Church around the world and his people who are precious in his sight and honoured by him. May we reach out to all who need to know the redeeming love of God in their lives. We ask your blessing upon our Scottish Episcopal Church, for our College of Bishops, Primus Mark and Bishop John, and the charges and communities in our diocese. Holy God, come with your power to the world we pray, to make your name known and honoured everywhere. Guide your leaders of nations and all in authority, that they may govern with justice and breakdown all barriers to the truth.

We pray for men, women and children throughout the world who live in the destructive fires of violence, oppression and injustice. May the Holy Fire of God protect them and bring them to safety and peace.

We pray for all who are passing through deep waters of suffering in body, mind or spirit. May they know the presence of God alongside them so they are not overwhelmed by their pain. We remember all who are ill at home or in hospital, those who are lonely and anxious and those who have asked for our prayers, for Rev Ruth Innes and from



St Columba's Douglas and Muriel Laidlaw, 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, Young Harry and Paul

and Janice Moffat and George Adamson.

From St Peter's David Small, Andrew Ramsay, David Olwa, Pat and Jim Bryce, 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, Robert Boyter, Ruthie Caddell, David Szkudlarek, Jan Robson, and George Adamson (Rev Christine's friend) and for all their families.

We remember with thanksgiving all who have passed through the waters of death and are now in the eternal presence of God. We pray for the souls of those who have died in recent days including Gordon Dumayne and remember those connected with our church families whose anniversaries of death fall this coming week.

From St Columba's: Anne Anderson, Wilfred Speight, Grace Brown, Betty Campbell and Rene Hickley.

From St Peter's: Christine Yates, Herbert Gill, Diana Wallace, Victor Moss, Violet Hooton and Thomas Blackmore. May they be at peace through the redeeming love shown in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God's Beloved Son and our Saviour. Lord God, we thank you for hearing our prayers and for loving us and all those for whom we have prayed. Help us to trust you and to be ready to play our part in bringing your kingdom of justice and peace into our world.



Blessing

CHRIST THE SON OF GOD gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Notices

MAY I WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A HAPPY NEW YEAR and may it be brighter one for us all. Our children will be settling back into school again and parents back to work. This year again we live with the uncertainty that the ongoing pandemic brings, I sincerely hope that it doesn't won't wreak too much havoc on our children's education again this year, especially for those who are returning to prelims.

Thankyou to everyone who made our services running up to, over Christmas and on into this new year so memorable in these challenging times. Especially St Columba's and St Peter's children with their own sharing of the Christmas Story that both lifted our flagging spirits and drew us on into those final days of advent.

Christmas Collections – as is our tradition we had retiring collections over our Christmas Eve and Day services for the two Scottish children's charities that our churches support each year: The Aberlour Child Care Trust for St Columba's and Rachel House Scotland for St Peter's. Many thanks to everyone who has given to our Christmas Appeal in support of two amazing Scottish children's charities. Our appeal will run until 15th January so there is still time if you would like to donate:

Financial donations can be brought to church and left in the plate, please mark envelopes 'Christmas Children's Charities 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 "Christmas Children's Charities 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 "Christmas Children's Charities 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/christmas-collection>. The campaign runs from now until 15 January 2022.

For those who use Internet banking:

St Peter's: into St Peter's bank account, with the reference "CHRISTMAS": 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 "CHRISTMAS": Royal Bank of Scotland, Account: St Columba's Episcopal Church Bathgate. Sort Code: 83-16-05 Account No: 00213096.

Thank you in anticipation of your support for the work of these amazing charities.

Services this Coming Week

Sunday 9th January – The Baptism of Christ – St Peter's Sung Eucharist @ 9.30am and St Columba's Sung Eucharist @ 11.15am.

Monday 10th January – Morning Prayer in St Columba's @ 9am

Tuesday 11th January – St Peter's Midweek Eucharist @ 10.30am

Wednesday 12th January – St Columba's Midweek Eucharist @ 10.30am

Thursday 13th January – Morning Prayer in St Peter's @ 9am

Life Together – a reminder that there will be a bumper edition of Life together in January, so please send pictures and stories to editor Peter by this **Sunday 9th January 2022**.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Bathgate Churches have arranged the following services and invite everyone to join in as many of them as they can!

Sunday 16 January St Mary's Church @ 6.30 pm

Monday 17 January The High Church @ 11.00 am

Tuesday 18 January St John's Church @ 11.00 am

Wednesday 19 January Boghall Church @ 6.30 pm

Thursday 20 January St Columba's Church @ 11.00 am

Friday 21 January EU Church @ 11.00 am

Linlithgow Churches are having one Ecumenical Service and it will be held in St Michael's RC Church on Sunday 23rd January in the evening, at 6pm.

to editor Peter by **Sunday 9th January 2022**.

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=ZXpMWndaY210empVY1daL09paGJwZz09>

Sunday 9 th	Festivals	Isaiah 42:1-9	Ephesians 2:1-10	Luke 3:15-22
Monday 10 th	Week A	Genesis 1:1 - 2:3	Hebrews 1:1-14	John 1:1-18
Tuesday 11 th	Week A	Genesis 2:4-9, (10-15), 16-25	Hebrews 2:1-10	John 1:19-28
Wednesday 12 th	Week A	Genesis 3:1-24	Hebrews 2:11-18	John 1:(29-34), 35-42
Thursday 13 th	Festivals	Sirach 50:1-24	Isaiah 52:7-12	John 1:1-18
Friday 14 th	Week A	Genesis 6:1-8	Hebrews 3:12-19	John 2:1-12
Saturday 15 th	Week A	Genesis 6:9-22	Hebrews 4:1-13	John 2:13-22

Meeting ID: 991 1810 8400 Passcode: 143983

For the coming week beginning on the First Sunday after Epiphany: The Baptism of the Lord. On Monday we remember William Laud, Bishop, 1645, on Tuesday we remember David, King of Scots, 1153, on Thursday we celebrate Kentigern (or Mungo), Bishop c.603, on Friday we remember Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, c.367

The Collect for the week of the First Sunday after Epiphany: The Baptism of the Lord

O God, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we, being born again, and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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.

The Collect for the week of the First Sunday after Epiphany

O Lord, in your loving kindness, hear the prayers of your people as they call upon you: that they may discern your will, and also be given strength to fulfil it; 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 Kentigern (or Mungo), Bishop

O God, who in your wonderful providence chose blessed Kentigern, your bishop, to be a teacher and guardian of your Church: grant, we pray, that we may ever follow the holy example of him whose feast day we now celebrate; 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 number:
Rev Christine – 07964175914

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