



Link
December 2018
January 2019

Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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Meanderings from the Manse!

I'm writing this in the same week in which we will celebrate St Andrew's Day. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, is certainly one of my heroes of the faith. He was always bringing people to Jesus! He brought his brother Simon (Peter) to Jesus (John 1) and thereafter remained in the shadow of his more demonstrative brother, something many of us can relate to! In the face of a challenge to feed 5000 plus people, he optimistically found a wee boy with five loaves and two small fish and despite some disparaging remarks from his peers, he looked optimistically and hopefully at Jesus (John 6). Encountering some Greek worshippers looking for Jesus (John 12), he and Philip were able to help. A good team player, problem solver with a can-do attitude, humble, helpful and hopeful Andrew is a great role model for us today and I tip my hat to him this pre-Advent week. Of course, Advent is about the coming of that Jesus who called Andrew and the others to follow Him.



This Advent, the Christmas theme is 'From Heaven You came helpless babe'. Drawing from the first line of The

Servant King, we will pause to catch glimpses of that heavenly realm from which Jesus came. The uniqueness of Jesus is that while He was born of Mary, He - as in the chorus of another song - “came from Heaven to earth to show the way; from the earth to the Cross my debt to pay; From the Cross to grave; from the grave to the sky, Lord I lift your Name on high”. That coming from Heaven will be the focus as we seek reminders of the reality of that realm. Look out for the parish postcards designed by the Communications Team with all the details.

Then, for the New Year, I hope to encourage us to Climb Every Mountain!



In Psalm 121:1 the Psalmist looks to the hills and wonders where our help will come from, and then acknowledges that our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth. With that in mind we’ll look at various hills in the Bible. The hill country Caleb

claimed in old age as he wholeheartedly followed God. The hill of transition where Moses accepts he won’t lead the people into the Promised Land and begins handing over to Joshua. The hill of the Lord where Moses encountered God. The Mount of Transfiguration where Jesus discusses His departure; the hill called Golgotha where he was crucified; the Mount of Olives from where He left his disciples and ascended to the Father. We will climb these hills together with the help of God.

In the evenings, Close Encounters of the Johannine-kind might provide a nice balance. Leaving aside the blinding glory of the miracles and the breath-taking claims of the I Am sayings, which we’ve covered deeply before, and focusing on various bits often missed in John’s Gospel we will catch fresh insight into the heart of John the beloved disciple.

Plenty to digest but for now have a wonder-filled Christmas and may the New Year be met with faith, hope and love.

Sam Torrens

Congregational roll

Admission to Membership

Karen Grant 28 October

Marriage

Karen Fergusson & David Warwick 3 November

Baptism

Derek Harper 4 November



Children's and Families Development Worker

Hello! – Hallo! – Sawasdee!

My name is Stefanie Conradt. I have just moved to Edinburgh and I can't wait to get to know and experience this city and your congregation. It is my privilege that I am going to be part of Barclay Viewforth as a Children and Families Worker from January 1st onwards. Until we have the chance to meet, I would like to tell you a wee bit about myself: I once heard that your favourite movie and band would reveal more about you than anything else: well, one of my favourite movies now is *Amazing Grace* and as a child Disney's *Pocahontas* simply was the best. She was a heroine I looked up to. When it comes to music, I cannot possibly tell a favourite for there are too many bands, songs and styles of music I like to listen to. But I may say that according to my experience heavy metal hasn't become a favourite yet.



I was born and grew up in Thailand as the fourth of five daughters. As a child I learned to love the diversity of this world and until today I feed my curiosity by travelling, be it to the US, Thailand, or on a pilgrimage towards Santiago.

I studied for a BA degree in Theology and Social Work in Kassel, Germany and continued with a MA degree in Pastoral Theology in London. During these five years, mission and ecumenism grew into two pillars of my theological interest. Since then I have been thinking about the challenges, dynamics and the calling of Christian churches. I began to understand the importance of family being the smallest church-cell as I had the benefit to experience in my past. After studying, I started working as a Parish Expert Worker in a church plant in Aachen. These past two years gave me the opportunity to experience my ability in developing a children's and youth work, leadership and mentoring. I had the pleasure of becoming a part of this congregation for two years and was kindly sent into my next chapter.

Besides serving you, I am going to start my doctoral studies in January. I am similarly looking forward to re-entering theory and research and I am convinced it will sharpen my mind for the new adventures that lie ahead of us.

I wish you joy and blessing in this Advent season – Frohen Advent

Stefanie Conradt

“From Heaven You Came”



Friday 7 December 19:00

Church Christmas Tree Party

Join us in the church for a fun evening of tree decorating, decking the halls, etc. It's a great way to get to know others in the church. Mulled wine and mince pies served after the work is done. All welcome.

Sunday 9 December 11:00

“The Heavenly Glory”

Sunday 9 December 12:30

The NET Christmas Lunch

All are welcome to a family Christmas lunch, complete with games for the wee ones and the traditional Secret Santa with a twist for the grown ups! (RSVP to the Net for numbers)

Sunday 9 December 15:00

Gillespie Crescent Carol Service

(Lounge of No. 47)

The annual Gillespie Crescent Carol Party is an opportunity to sing a few well-loved carols, and share some festive cheer with the folks from the sheltered housing complex near the church.

We would love it if some folks from BVC would come and join us to swell the singing and enjoy some festive treats. Contact Elaine Hogan for more information.

Sunday 9 December 18:30

Carols by Candlelight

Carols in the atmospheric, candle lit sanctuary. Accompanied by the pipe organ, we'll be singing a selection of Christmas favourites, and reflecting on the Christmas message.

Christmas at Barclay Viewforth

Sunday 16 December 11:00

Nativity Service

"The Heavenly Gift"

A service focussed on our young people, with the children's nativity and Next's alternative take on the Christmas story. For all ages and followed by refreshments.

Sunday 16 December 18:30

Carols on the Steps

Wrap up warm to come along and sing carols on the steps of the church for the local community. There will be a practice at 18:30, before we head outside at 19:00. Mulled wine and mince pies provided to warm up afterwards!

Sunday 23 December 11:00

Family Service

"The Heavenly Joy"

Monday 24 December 23:00

Watchnight Service

"The Heavenly Host"

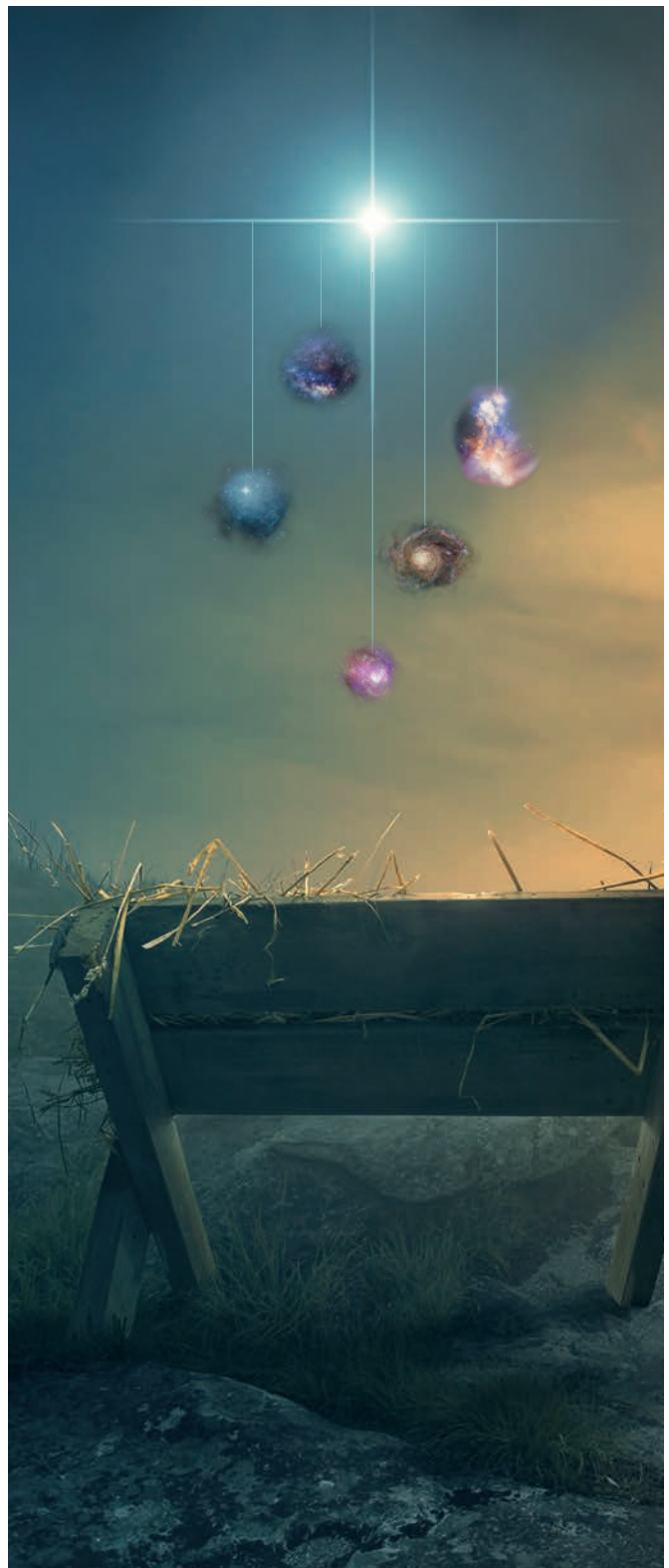
See in the day itself with our traditional Watchnight service. Arrive at 23:00 for refreshments, worship begins at 23:30 and will last about an hour.

Tuesday 25 December 10:30

Christmas Day Service

"The Heavenly Child"

Bring your presents and your presence for a wonderful all age celebration of the birth of Jesus. Visitors are very welcome.



Flowers in the Sanctuary

As this is the last Church Magazine for this year, I'd like to thank everyone who provided donations for the flowers that have been displayed in the Sanctuary throughout the year. The Flower Group have done a great job of sourcing the flowers and displaying them in the Sanctuary week-after-week. The group consists of: Susan Hindle (who as our Treasurer also keeps track of our finances), June MacLeod, Lorna Gentleman, Lindsey MacLeod, Irene Hall, Karen Ferguson, Janette Niven, Anne Gaskell and Isobel Anderson. We are always looking for new members to join the group and would welcome enquiries about what that entails. Some members of the group can always be found at the front of the church after the Sunday morning service.

I'm sure everyone knows that after the morning service the flowers are given or taken out to people, usually from within the congregation. Our older members who can no longer make it to Church are delighted to receive flowers and a card confirming they have not been forgotten by their church family. Flowers are given out for different celebrations and go with the love and prayers of the congregation.

The Calendar for 2019 will be put up in the usual place in the Pillar Hall at the beginning of December. Anyone wishing to donate flowers on a specific Sunday should put their name against the appropriate date on the Calendar

For more information about joining the group or making donations, please see me in Church or phone me on 0131 229 3600. Wishing one and all A Very Blessed Christmas and Health and Happiness in 2019.

Isobel Anderson

Flower rota

Thank you to those who have donated and arranged the flowers for the sanctuary for December.



	Donated by	Arranged by
2 Dec	Helen Miller	<i>Irene Hall</i>
9 Dec		<i>Lindsey MacLeod</i>
16 Dec	Mairi Gordon	<i>Lorna Gentleman</i>

Kitchen notes: Hokey Pokey

I can't quite believe December is here - it only seems two minutes ago that it was the start of October! Alongside the annual trip to the ballet, the church tree decorating, the challenge of how many carol concerts/services can I get to, I also set aside one day for making sweeties (with the obligatory Christmas music playing in the background). I've been quietly plotting over the last couple of weeks, trying to decide what I'm making as my Christmas gift for friends this year and the recipe below is one that is on the shortlist. It's a Nigella Lawson recipe for Hokey Pokey (or to the rest of us Honeycomb). The only advice I can give is use a large pan; and try to avoid making it if it is really humid – it will go chewy and start to dissolve.

- 100 grams caster sugar
- 4 tablespoons golden syrup
- 1½ teaspoons bicarbonate of soda

1. Put the sugar and syrup into a saucepan and stir together to mix.
2. Place the pan on the heat and let the mixture first melt, then turn to goo and then to a bubbling mass the colour of maple syrup - this will take 3-5 minutes.
3. Off the heat, whisk in the bicarbonate of soda. (It will increase in volume significantly)
4. Turn this immediately onto a piece of reusable baking parchment or greased foil.
5. Leave until set and then bash at it, so that it splinters into pieces.



Linda Garside



Pancake and prayer breakfast

As you may have noticed, on the third Sunday of every month there is a prayer breakfast before the morning service. They are led by different people on a variety of themes. We do have some children who attend, but would like to encourage more families to join us.

On **Sunday 20th January**, we are planning a slightly different approach involving prayer stations with activities to suit all. We will also have a pancake breakfast and are hoping that the new Children's and Families Development Worker will be there to give her a chance to meet people. The breakfast starts at 9.45am and runs until about 10.30 - families can join any time.

Katharine Ellis

Learning Communities in Barclay Viewforth

Save the date: Learning Community 2019 - 1 and 2 February 2019

People beyond the Kirk Session may not be fully aware that over the past six years, small teams of five people - mainly from the ministry team - have participated in the Celtic Learning Community (2012-2014) and then having completed that they progressed into the Celtic Community of Practice (2015-2017). Now, some of us lead CAIRN Lothian (2017 to the present) which is a gathering of around 12 other churches, with Church of Scotland churches coming alongside others to be encouraged, in a spirit of supportive fellowship, to reflect on mission and ministry and to set goals for the next step of the journey.

Let me paint a picture of the most recent gathering of CAIRN Lothian held in September. Picture 12 workstations set up around a large room, one for each team. The workstations have a table, a flip-chart, pens and post-its. Teams gather and come together for refreshments, worship, teaching and fellowship. The table-time and the event is structured around reflecting on the past in the present for the future, and embraces:

1. Describing and naming what is (Part 1)
2. Dreaming about what could be (Part 2)
3. Defining goals for the next steps (Part 3)

In between these slots there is food, fellowship and the building of a sense of family on mission together, with teaching slots to help us grow together in our understanding of various key themes. The strength of the whole event is the sense of learning together in a community where there is a shared unity of purpose.

These ideals have been introduced to Barclay Viewforth through the work of our former Mission Facilitator Iain Sutherland who has led a number of shortened internal Learning Communities for the church. Now, with the change to the Unitary Constitution, it has fallen to the Kirk Session to facilitate and reinvigorate these shortened Learning Communities as a unifying and empowering means for bringing the various ministries and missional communities together under a shared vision with each team working around their table, but also alongside others as family on mission and in ministry together.

So what would it look like locally? It would probably require both the pillar hall and the sanctuary, with a



table and a flip-chart for every ministry and missional community within our church with time to worship, reflect, dream, set goals and to learn from God's Word and from each other. The Children & Youth Ministry, the Pastoral Ministry, the Flower Ministry, the Audio/Visual Ministry, Communications Team, the Afternoon Fellowship, the Football Ministry, Fabric, Finance, Connect Plus, The Net, TCP, Connect Stenhouse, Blessing and so on. A small number of newly-huddled members will float around the various tables to get a sense of where God might be calling them to serve, and in so doing they will get a feel for the missional pulse within our church. Out of this, the Kirk Session - via a smaller Strategy Group - would have plenty of information to reflect upon in forming a view on priorities and resourcing needs.

The Sunday after the Learning Community will be a Church Lunch Sunday with the various flip-chart/workstations on view for the congregation.

The first of these re-imagined Learning Communities is earmarked for Friday 1 Feb 2019 from 7-9pm, and Saturday 2 Feb 2019 from 10am-1pm. We hope that Ministries and Missional Communities can be thinking about how they might be involved in this as part of our vision-building and growing together as family on mission.

Sam Torrens

Afternoon Fellowship

At our meeting on 6 November we welcomed Nikki Kirkland, our OLM student. It was a chance to hear why Nikki chose to become an OLM and what exactly this entailed. OLM stands for ordained local minister. It has been recognised that not everyone called to the Ministry was called to be a parish minister. An ordained local minister - while they can celebrate all the Sacraments - is not confined to one Parish, but can take on a variety of roles within the Church. Nikki told us how she came to feel called to the Ministry and why she is becoming an OLM. As well as learning more about OLMs, we also got a chance to get to know Nikki better.

Following that interesting and enjoyable afternoon, we are going on to celebrate Christmas slightly early when we have our traditional Christmas Lunch in The Golf Tavern. This year it is on Tuesday 4 December at 12:30 and our first meeting in the New Year will be our Burns Lunch which is always an enjoyable occasion, and brightens up January for us.

P.S. We do do other things, apart from eating!

Lorna Gentleman

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 4 December 12:30	Christmas Lunch at The Golf
Tuesday 22 January 13:00	Burns Lunch
Tuesday 5 February 14:00	Guest Speaker

All are welcome at these monthly gatherings.

A tale of two Christmases

As I write this, it has been six years since my now husband's father died suddenly while out walking. The loss was shocking and devastating for family, friends and colleagues. Just over a year later, we kept vigil over Christmas as both of my husband's grandmothers ailed and passed away.

But this is not about those losses.
It is about what I found in the middle of them.

For most of my life, Christmas has been about joy. It has been a time for family, for traditions, for laughter and celebration. It has been a brief moment of simplicity and completeness in the middle of a life that often feels fractured and complex.

Those Christmases in 2012 and 2013 were none of those things. It was heavy, difficult, and marred by the gaping hole of loss.

Yet, in that place of loss, I found something.
I discovered a Christmas I didn't know existed.
I discovered Christ-mass.



In the middle of everything, I needed to see again the infant in the manger. I needed to turn and look at the incarnate Christ. To know that God became a human being, and walked among us.

I found a new Christmas in the darkness of the church before the candles are lit.
I found a new Christmas in the foreshadowing of the cross in the lyrics of carols.
I found a new Christmas in standing among fellow believers as we remember what it is not just to have faith, but to have hope too.

Some might call it the *real* Christmas, but I don't think that the Christmas of presents, food and sleepy TV specials is some how fake, or inauthentic. That *is* real Christmas.



But those moments of stillness, silently (or musically) shared together as we remember the "overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God" is the other, secret Christmas, that belongs to us as believers. It is a Christmas that transcends all our humanity and lets us, for a few moments, enter into the divine.

Emma Torry

National Mindfulness Day for Christians will be held on 23 March 2019 from 09:15 to 16:30 at Central Hall.

This conference is all about exploring mindfulness and mental health in the context of Christian faith. The early-bird ticket price of £40 is available until 31 December so book now online:

- <https://christianmindfulness.co.uk/events/national-mindfulness-day-christians>



Emma Torry

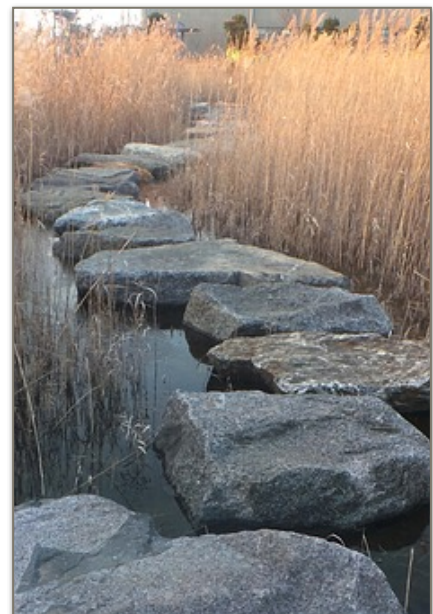
The logo for Caring Christmas Trees, featuring the words "caring" and "christmas trees" in white lowercase letters on a dark green background with a stylized tree shape.	<p>Last chance to order your Caring Christmas Tree for 2018! You can still order for collection on 14/15 December until 12 noon on Monday 10 December.</p> <p>Every environmentally-friendly, Scottish-grown tree supports the work of Bethany Christian Trust throughout the year.</p> <p>Order on line www.caringchristmastrees.com or by calling 0345 111 8733 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm.</p>
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Pathways bereavement support group

As the current course draws to a close at the Treehouse Coffee Shop, we're already planning ahead to the next course in March 2019. This course will be run in the daytime at the Bruntfield Hotel (Blythwood Room). If you know of anyone who has recently been bereaved, please pass on the course details to them (flyers available in the Pillar Hall). More information from pathways@barclayviewforth.org.uk

P.S. A sincere thank you to the Autumn Pathways team - Catriona, Mike, Laura, Fiona, John and Andrew - for giving their time and talents to this first course. The people who attended have really benefitted from your input and your care and concern.

Elaine Hogan



TCP Beetle Drive

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Beetle Drive, and to those who donated before/after. The grand sum of £180 (including a £20 donation from the Afternoon Fellowship) was raised towards the installation of a defibrillator at Saunderson's butchers. The following note was received from the butcher... A big 'thank you' to your TCP group, church members and local shopkeepers who attended the recent Beetle Drive and donated the generous sum of £180 towards a local defibrillator. From the donations received so far it's clear people feel this very worthwhile for the community.

John Saunderson



WANT TO SERVE GOD? IT'S YOUR CALL

Vocations

INFORMATION DAY

Have you been hearing the call to serve God? Considering full-time, part-time or voluntary ministry with the Church of Scotland?

A Vocations Information Day is your chance to find out more about the different types of ministry available in the Church of Scotland and to explore your calling with others. The next Vocations Information Day will be held on Saturday 9 February at St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street from 09:30 to 17:00.

To find out more and register head to http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/events/vocations_information_day

Emma Torry

Ecumenical Evening Service
of Prayer and Worship
Edinburgh Churches Together



Palmerston Place Church, 10
Palmerston Pl, Edinburgh EH12 5AA on
Monday January 21st at 7.30pm.

Useful information

Minister

Rev. Sam Torrens

minister@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Ministry Team

Administrator

Julie Nicholson

admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Pastoral Associate

Elaine Hogan

pastoral@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Probationer

Nikki Kirkland

nkirkland@churchofscotland.org.uk

Officers

Session Clerk

John Ritchie

sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Treasurer

Janet Darling

treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Roll Keeper

Helen Miller

rollkeeper@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Church Officer

Chris Hogan

Webmaster

Mike Ellis

webmaster@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Music

Organist/Choirmaster Andrew Robertson

Organist

Michael Bonaventure

Worship Band Leader Anna Nicholson

Missional communities(*), groups and teams

Afternoon Fellowship Jean Macaulay

Blessing*

Contact the church office

Celebrate Recovery*

Sam Torrens

Connect Plus*

Elaine Rumney

Flower Ministry

Isobel Anderson

Football

Andrew Stephenson, Sam Torrens

Meals for Mums

Linda Garside, Katy Gray

TCP*

Elaine Hogan

The Net*

Alison Edmondson, Kirsteen Milne, Andrew Paterson

Toddlers

Katharine Ellis

For enquiries by telephone, please call the church office on 0131 229 6810

Contribute to the magazine

Link relies on people like you to fill our pages each month. Please send us articles, pictures, poems, artwork, recommendations, upcoming events and important notices!

You can submit content by email to magazine@barclayviewforth.org.uk or hand in a hard copy to the editor or the church office. Articles should be 400 words or fewer.

Content for the **February** issue must be submitted by 17:00 on **Tuesday 22 January**.

I will be going on maternity leave soon, so Elaine Rumney will be taking over as editor for the next few issues.

Emma Torry, Editor



Sat	1	21:00	Hosting Bethany Night Shelter	Halls
Sun	2	21:00	Hosting Bethany Night Shelter	Halls
Mon	3	07:30	Night Shelter clean-up	Halls
Tues	4	12:30	Afternoon Fellowship Christmas Lunch	<i>Golf Tavern</i>
Thu	6	19:30	Choir practice	Pillar Hall
Fri	7	19:00	Tree decoration	Sanctuary
Sun	9	15:00	Gillespie Crescent carol service	Gillespie Cres
Sun	9	18:30	Carols by Candlelight	Sanctuary
Sat	15	21:00	Hosting Bethany Care Shelter	Halls
Sun	16	11:00	Nativity Sunday	Sanctuary
Sun	16	18:30	Carols on the Steps	Sanctuary
Sun	16	21:00	Hosting Bethany Care Shelter	Halls
Mon	17	07:00	Night Shelter clean-up	Halls
Thurs	20	19:30	Choir practice	Pillar Hall
Sun	23		No Evening Service	
Mon	24	23:00	Watchnight service (service starts 23:30)	Sanctuary
Tues	25	10:30	Christmas Day service	Sanctuary
Sun	30		No Evening Service	

There will be **no prayer breakfast** on
Sunday 16 December.

Red events are BVC events, **blue** events are CoS and **green** events are run by other organisations



Sun	6	12:15	Church lunch	Pillar Hall
Sun	6	18:15	Evening service recommences	Pillar Hall
Thur	10	19:30	Choir practice	Pillar Hall
Mon	14	19:00	Kirk Session	Pillar Hall
Sun	20	09:45	Pancake and prayer breakfast	Pillar Hall
Mon	21	19:30	Ecumenical service of prayer and worship	<i>Palmerston Pl</i>
Tues	22	13:00	Afternoon Fellowship Burns lunch	Pillar Hall
Tues	22	17:00	Deadline for February magazine	
Thur	24	19:30	Choir practice	Pillar Hall

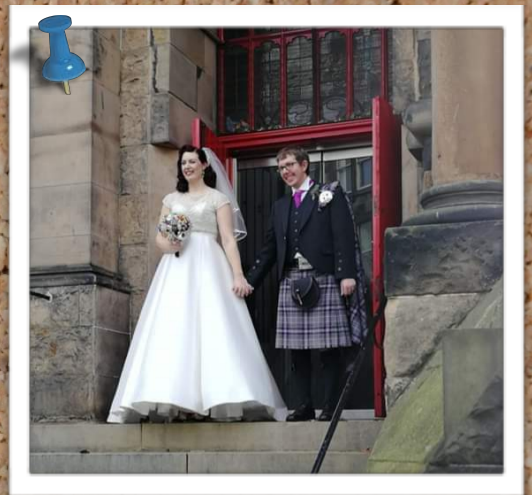


Fri	1	19:00	BVC Learning Community part 1	Pillar Hall
Sat	2	10:00	BVC Learning Community part 2	Pillar Hall
Sun	3	12:15	Church lunch	Pillar Hall
Tues	5	14:00	Afternoon Fellowship guest speaker	Pillar Hall
Thur	7	19:30	Choir practice	Pillar Hall
Sat	9	09:30	Vocations Information Day	St John's
Sun	17	09:45	Prayer breakfast	Pillar Hall
Tues	19	17:00	Deadline for March magazine	
Thur	21	19:30	Choir practice	Pillar Hall

Red events are BVC events, **blue** events are CoS and **green** events are run by other organisations



Thank you to everyone who helped sorting shoeboxes



Congratulations to Karen and David



Ready for the Rugby



Welcome to Karen as a new member



The adventures of Ironwoman!

Want to see your photo here?
Email it to the address on p.13