



Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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## Journeys

Over the Advent season we may find ourselves taking more 'journeys' than usual. It could be journeys to visit family or friends, or more frequent journeys to the shops or post office. Others may face journeys to doctors or hospital, or even journeys to see loved ones off on their final journey. Every journey will have its own story – from adventures at airport security through to standing in a long queue at the post office with all your cards and parcels ready for posting only to remember that your purse is sitting on the counter top at home. There may be journeys filled with fear and frustration, but there will also be ones laden with happiness and joy.

Watching people head off on a journey or arrive at their destination at airports and railway stations can be exciting too. I love people watching at these places – hundreds of travellers at the beginning or the end of their journey and



the tears of those seeing them off, or the anticipation of those waiting for people to arrive. The reunions – the sheer joy which lights up faces as loved ones and good friends are reunited. That’s probably why one of my top Christmas films is *Love Actually*. It starts at the airport and features many people on their own personal journeys through life – starting a new job; coping with bereavement; friendships; and much more. Inevitably, as in most of our Christmas movies, all ends well and it’s that feel-good factor which draws us to watch them every year. However, our daily lives are often filled with journeys which don’t have such happy endings. It’s at these times that we, sometimes as a last resort, turn to God. We might cry out, “Why, God...?” We may never understand, but we can draw strength from the One who comforts us in all our troubles. We have to journey through the pain/anger/frustration/disappointment/grief knowing that He will hold our hand.

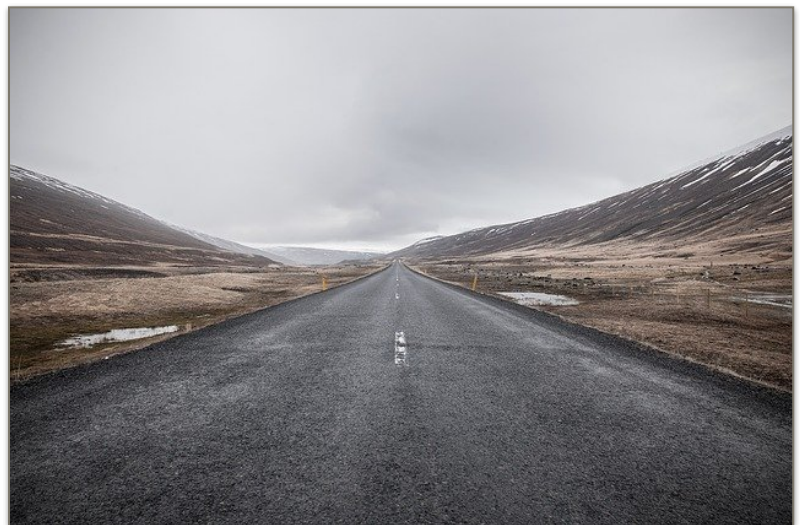
Scripture gives us many examples of people on difficult journeys – the Christmas story itself being the start of the most important one. That journey, foretold in the Old Testament (Isaiah 9), continued through Mary and Joseph’s trek to Bethlehem (Luke 1-2) for the birth of Jesus, through to walking the road to Golgotha, carrying a heavy wooden cross. That journey did not end there and, in fact, is one still in progress as we journey with the resurrected Jesus in our daily lives. What tremendous HOPE that gives us when we face our difficult journeys. What tremendous joy it gives us as we walk and celebrate the easier journeys.

If you face difficult journeys in the coming weeks, know that you are not alone. You can also call on us to help you or walk with you on your journey.

Love actually did come down at Christmas all those years ago. May you each experience Christ’s love this Christmas and always.

Merry Christmas to you and yours,  
With love

*Elaine Hogan*



## Congregational roll

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### Dedication

Rachel Marie Millington Torry

3 November 2019





### Death

Mrs Mary Trainer

November 2019



## Christmas at BVC

 BARCLAY VIEWFORTH	<b>Name of Passenger:</b> Surname/Name <b>From:</b> Nazareth <b>To:</b> Bethlehem		"Go and search carefully for the child."  Matthew 2:8b
	<b>Scan QR Code for:</b> barclayviewforth.org.uk		
	<b>GATE</b> <b>BOARDING TIME</b> MATTHEW 2:8b            Please see reverse		

QR code reader apps are available on the app store

All are welcome to join us for this year's Christmas celebrations on a journey through the Christmas story to meet the Christ Child anew.

### *Sunday 1 December*

11:00      **Journeys for Family Gatherings**

### *Sunday 8 December*

11:00      **Journey Plans**  
 12:30      The NET Christmas Lunch  
 15:00      Gillespie Crescent Carol Party

### *Sunday 15 December*

11:00      **Departures** - Nativity Service led by BVC Sunday Club Kingdom Kids  
 18:30      Carols on the Steps 18:30 for 19:00

### *Sunday 22 December*

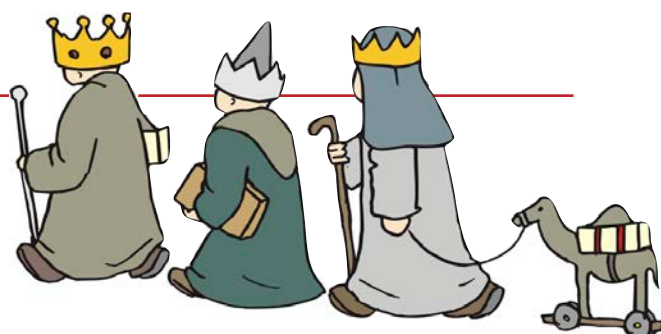
11:00      **Journeys of the Heart**  
 18:30      Carols by Candlelight 18:30

### *Tuesday 24 December*

23:00      **Arrivals** - Watchnight Service

### *Wednesday 25 December*

10:30      **Journey's End...New Beginnings**  
 Christmas Day celebration





## Helping the Homeless – a Practical Opportunity

For many years the Edinburgh charity Bethany Christian Trust has provided a number of programmes to assist the homeless. One is the Care Shelter, providing people who are rough sleeping with a place to go for the night: a place where they can find shelter, a hot meal and a warm place to sleep for more than seven months of each year.



Over this time, churches close to the city centre have provided a venue on a rota basis for up to 60 or 70 people each night. Barclay Viewforth has provided teams to both host the event and to cook the evening meal. Earlier this year a permanent venue was found at Diadem, a church building at the junction of Gorgie Road and Chesser Avenue. Planning permission issues have so far prevented its use so far this winter – although we understand that it is due to open on 2 December. Gorgie Church is providing the venue at the moment.

Having a (reasonably) fixed venue is beneficial for the users. However, a large number of different churches from Edinburgh and the surrounding area still provide the evening meal. Barclay Viewforth has provided a catering team on a number of dates in the past, and there is an opportunity to continue this service at the new venue

On an evening, a team would comprise five or six people, with one of them designated as team leader. Members would assist in the preparation and serving of the meal to those using the service. The leader would be able to decide on a menu for a simple two-course meal, organising the buying of the food, the cooking and serving, and supervising the others in the team. It is likely that each member would volunteer for a couple of evenings each year.

If you are interested in hearing more about this, or in being part of a Barclay Viewforth team, please have a word with me. If you don't know me please ask one of the Welcome team, or you may find me at the Sound Desk. Alternatively please contact me via the Church Office.

Bethany provides a much-needed service to Edinburgh's many homeless/rough sleepers, and this is a chance to contribute your time and talents to a worthwhile cause.

*Ed Bain*

## Vacancy News: Nominating Committee Update

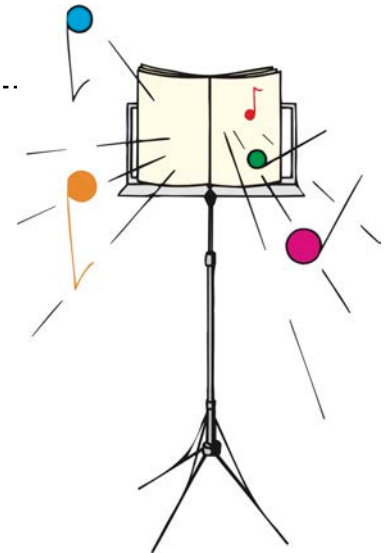
The closing date for applications for our new Minister was 1 November and we were encourage to receive a number of strong applications. We are now arranging to meet with some of the applicants and would highlight that this process will extend into the New Year. We greatly value and appreciate your continued prayerful support for all aspects of our work.

*Andrew Paterson*

## Musician wanted

Can you play piano or guitar? Do you have a couple of hours to spare fortnightly during school terms on a Tuesday evening, from 7pm to 8.45pm? If so, Connect Plus would love to hear from you. Our group loves to sing, but our current regular musician is having to step back. We are a friendly group who have lots of fun together, and you would get your supper too. If you would like to know more, please contact Elaine Rumney on 0131 313 4956. Thanks in advance.

*Elaine Rumney*



## Afternoon Fellowship

Our November meeting was a Beetle Drive, first introduced to the Fellowship by our members from Viewforth. It was a fun afternoon as you get to talk, however briefly, to so many folk. Next month will also be a fun afternoon as we will be enjoying our Christmas Lunch at the Golf Tavern. Our first meeting of the New Year will also be at the Golf Tavern for our Burns Lunch.

Although the Fellowship's membership is predominately female, it is open to all. So if any of the topics interest you, just come along and you will be made very welcome.

*Lorna Gentleman*

## Embroidery threads

If you enjoy embroidery and would like some threads I have many skeins which I no longer



use, also graph patterns of mostly flowers. If you are interested, please contact me. I am usually at the morning service each Sunday and Elaine Hogan or Julie Nicholson can point me out if you don't know me. I would love to give them to someone who could use them rather than take them to a charity shop where they may be thrown away.

*Una Laidlay*

## Days with trees

It's December, so what other tree could we have except the holly. Back in June when I wrote this (and took the photo) the trees were already starting to prepare for this cold winter season... The holly berries are forming, although there are still a few flowers left, providing food for insects. The holly is preparing for winter. Preparing what will become a store of food for birds. Being bright and colourful in the cold dark winter months. Being a reminder that life continues throughout the hard barren times, as well as the milder more abundant times. So many lessons from the holly. The leaves high up in the tree aren't jagged, but smooth. They aren't going to get eaten by browsing animals, but provide resting spots for the birds, who are welcome to eat its fruits. But it is not time for that yet.



The bees are still buzzing and pollinating the flowers so that the fruits can form. The sun still shines warmly on the leaves, providing the conditions necessary to grow. This symbol of Christmas isn't particularly noticeable at this time of year – green amongst a lot more green and many more colours besides. But this tree provides constancy. An evergreen. We need to have this constancy. We need to provide when times are hard, be full of hope when things are dark. Be abundant when there is little else going round. We need to stay constantly connected to God, to keep growing and producing fruit that will take us through the winter times. We need the nourishment to be open and welcoming to those who need us. As God provides for us, we can provide for others in different seasons. Each day needs to be our preparation time for what God has in store for us. Each day we need

to seek his face. Bask in his love, and suck up the nourishment to grow strong and sure. We may be green now, but one day we will need to ripen, so that God can use us the way that he intended. It doesn't matter if we are overlooked now, because the time will come when we are bright and people notice us, and want to receive what we have for them.

**CAST & CREW WANTED**  
**EDINBURGH EASTER PLAY**  
**Princes Street Gardens**  
**11 April 2020**

**Tell the story**

Cast rehearsals Wednesdays 7pm 9pm  
 Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse Church 190 Gorgie Road  
 Welcome to all with acting experience or none,  
 aged 16 upwards.  
 Suzanne: [cuttingedge21@btinternet.com](mailto:cuttingedge21@btinternet.com)

Princes Street Easter Play Trust

*Julie Nicholson*



## Kitchen notes: coconut ice

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With the approach of Christmas, it feels a bit like time is running away from me, the diary is starting to overflow and the to-do list seems to grow exponentially every time I look at it. However, as well as being one of the busiest times of the year, it is my favourite time of the year. I am already starting to plan my day of sweetie-making for Christmas presents. I still feel a novice when it comes to sweetie-making and tend to stick to the easier recipes that are a bit more forgiving. I now have a number of recipes that I do most years and then I try something new as well. I generally make Mum Coconut Ice each year, as she loves coconut but rarely has it due to both Dad and I being allergic to it. This is a really easy recipe to make with children, although be warned – you will be very sticky by the end. I have a feeling I scale it up to use a full tin of condensed milk, unless I have other recipes that can use up the leftovers.



- 200g condensed milk
  - 225g icing sugar
  - 175g desiccated coconut
  - 1 drop of red food colouring (optional)
1. Mix together the condensed milk and icing sugar. Stir in the coconut (mixture should be very stiff) and divide in half. Colour one half of the mixture pale pink and keep mixing until you have an even colour.
  2. Double-line a small plastic box with baking parchment or cling film before placing the white coconut ice in the bottom, pressing it into a bar shape. Form the pink coconut ice into a similar shape and press firmly together.
  3. Leave 2-3 hours until firm and cut into squares. Keep refrigerated in an airtight container and use within three weeks.

*Linda Garside*

## Pathways 2020

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As the current Pathways course draws to a close, the dates for the next course are now available. This course will run on Monday mornings, commencing Monday 24 February, from 10:30-12:00 in the Pillar Hall. If you know of anyone who might benefit, as previous course participants have, from having a safe space to share their stories and learn from others on the same bereavement journey please pass this information on to them. Leaflets are available from the Pillar Hall, or speak to Anne Gaskell or Elaine Hogan for more information.

*Elaine Hogan*

## 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 has 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; Lindsay 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 2020 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 2020.

*Isobel Anderson*

## Flower rota

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



	Donated by	Arranged by
1	Helen Miller	TBC
8	TBC	TBC
15	Mairi Gordon	Karen Warwick
22	Lorna & Bill Gentleman	Lorna Gentleman
29	TBC	TBC



## Advent challenge

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You might think that the run-up to Christmas is challenging enough without adding anything extra to your day – and, believe me, I feel the same. But there is also something to be gained in challenging yourself to do something a bit different. So here I am, suggesting a few possibilities.

Recently I met with my spiritual director and discussed what could bring me more life this advent season. One thing which gives me joy and life is doing creative things, but they are often squeezed out from my daily routine with everything else that's going on. Regular readers will have seen some of the products of a previous creative/spiritual challenge which I undertook between Easter and Pentecost – my 'days with trees' (see page 6 for the latest one). From 1 December I am going to make 'advent cards'. These are not greetings cards, but just a piece of card on which I will write a word or phrase each day that has inspired me from a book or service, or something someone has said, or even something that God has spoken to me. I have prepared these cards using watercolour paper which I ecoprinted with fallen leaves. It didn't go quite according to plan, so I might have to do something else to them! These are just something to make to enjoy myself, so I can remember God's love and goodness to me this busy advent season.

The second thing which I saw recently is an advent calendar which, as well as giving you chocolate, asks you to do something for others. Vintage Vibes is an Edinburgh charity which aims to tackle loneliness in older people. These aren't for sale, but have a look at the website – <https://vintagevibes.org.uk> – and keep an eye on social media as people share their hashtag #VVkindnessclub. After Elaine's sermon on kindness recently, we should all be willing to make a special effort for others – especially at this time of year. Elaine is regularly an advocate for random acts of kindness!

Last year Elaine suggested doing a 'reverse advent calendar' by buying something each day for the food bank.

So, do any of these challenges resonate with you? If not, how can you be challenged to get closer to God this advent season?

*Julie Nicholson*

## “Of making many books there is no end...” Ecc. 12:12

... or maybe there is. Maybe, in our digital age, the end *is* coming for physical books. I hope not! In January 2020 we are launching a new-look carousel, filled with books about ordinary people’s stories. May I encourage you to use this fine resource, which has lain hidden in the nooks and crannies of our church for I don’t know how long! Noah brought them all together in the Pillar Hall vestibule. Liz has been cataloguing. Lesley polished holding shelves and all the books have been grouped into rough categories according to their content.



Each month a different theme will be uploaded to the carousel, so as the year passes, we hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy or find helpful. Take one or more, read and return. Or feel free to pass on. If it finds a home on your bookshelf, then that’s fine too! After all, books are a highly-endangered species. If we don’t use them, we’ll lose them and the pity is, we won’t even know what we’ve lost. So let’s make a New Year’s resolution to give books a chance, and where better place to start than the BVC special collection!

*Elaine Edwards*

## TCP

At the beginning of November we met in the Pillar Hall for a ‘pampering evening’ with some of our local shopkeepers. Gill from Dandelion and Ginger had offered to give head or shoulder massages while her friend Alice treated some to hand massages. With subdued lighting, nibbles and wine the scene was set for a relaxed time.



This evening was instigated by the shopkeepers and proved to be popular, well-attended and very relaxing. Thanks to Gill and Alice for their willingness, time and skills. It was great to welcome three members of the congregation who joined us, a real encouragement for the team and an opportunity for the shopkeepers to meet more of the ‘Church Folks’.

*Barbara Roberts*

## Opening the doors

Though I have not attended Barclay Viewforth church for long, I am aware that it is experiencing change and growth. As this church seeks to deepen its understanding of the Christian faith and creates new opportunities for children, its members are strengthened and encouraged to have a more personal faith.



Recently, we have been reading about the birth of the early church, a community of believers united by radical, self-sacrificial passion to bring the good news of Jesus to others. Now, as ever, the communities for which Barclay Viewforth provides are in need of this good news – and as we look to invite more people to our family, this example is ours to follow.

In particular, the city's youth – the up-and-coming generation of world-shapers – have an extraordinary capacity to seek and pursue their passions, but also an unsatisfied longing for good news. My generation craves authenticity from a world so often lacking it, and it is surely saddening that they often don't find it in the church.

How do we open our doors? Perhaps I don't have solutions – only questions to consider. Have we put down any roadblocks for anyone who wishes to come to our church? When we welcome newcomers, is our kindness and desire to know them genuine? Do we have the means to be open to and pastor those with questions and vulnerabilities in a way that makes them feel safe and encouraged? When we leave the church building, do we sincerely live out what we hear and say the other six days of the week?

It's not really about what kind of worship songs we sing or how many biscuits are on the tray, though these are important. When we ask how to attract people to the church, we must ask, "Is the church attractive to people?"

It is by no coincidence that the book of the Acts of the Apostles is sometimes known as the Acts of the Holy Spirit. Only once filled with the Holy Spirit did the apostles preach to the world and only by inviting the Holy Spirit to fill us do we deliver the good news to others.

*Philip Brown*

caring  
christmas trees

Last chance to order your Caring Christmas Tree for 2019! You can still order for collection on 13/14 December until 12 noon on Monday 9 December.

Every environmentally-friendly, Scottish-grown tree supports the work of Bethany Christian Trust throughout the year.

Order online at [www.caringchristmastrees.com](http://www.caringchristmastrees.com) or by calling 0345 111 8733 Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.



## Blythswood Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who donated shoeboxes to this year's appeal.

Thank you to the Knit 2 Together group who knitted endless hats, scarves and gloves to go into the shoeboxes.

Thank you to the BVC volunteers who came along to help 'sort' more than 3,500 shoeboxes which passed through our sorting centre at BVC over 3 days in November, all of which are now en route to Romania.

Our Kirk Session has agreed that we will be a sorting centre again in 2020 so book the dates (11-13 November 2020) in your diary now.

*Elaine Hogan*



## Family Bible Study

Everyone is most welcome to join a new bible study group that will meet fortnightly on Thursday evenings throughout January and February 2020. The dates so far are 16 & 30 January and

13 & 27 February. The time will be 7.30pm to 8.30pm – and we will meet in the Pillar Hall. Refreshments will be available both before and after the bible study.

What better way is there to start the New Year with bible study and fellowship with one another and with guests because all are welcome? We have four different leaders to lead the bible studies.

All are welcome to these evenings whether you have been to such bible studies before or not. Try something new in the New Year – I pray you will come and enjoy the fellowship and that exploring the Word of God will say something new and relevant to you.

May you know the love, joy and peace of Christmas and the opportunities that a new year brings.

*Martin Pearce (Locum)*



## Useful information

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### Minister

*[Vacant as of 18 May 2019 - please contact the office in the first instance]*

Interim Moderator	Ian MacDonald (Minister, Holy Trinity Wester Hailes)
Locum	Martin Pearce      martin.j.pearce@blueyonder.co.uk

### Ministry Team

Administrator	Julie Nicholson	admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Pastoral Associate	Elaine Hogan	pastoral@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Children & Families	Stefanie Conrard	children@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Development Worker		

### 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*	<i>Contact the church office</i>
Connect Plus*	Elaine Rumney, Chris Hogan
Football	Andrew Stephenson
Meals for Mums	Linda Garside, Katy Gray
TCP*	Elaine Hogan, Helen Wolpert
The Net*	Alison Edmondson, Kirsteen Milne, Andrew Paterson
Toddlers	Katharine Ellis
Knit 2 Together	Anne McCulloch

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

## Contribute to the magazine

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*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](mailto: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 21 January**.

*Emma Torry, Editor*



Sun	1	12:15	Church Lunch	Pillar Hall
Tues	3	13:00	Afternoon Fellowship Christmas Lunch	Golf Tavern
Tues	3	19:00	Pathways	The Treehouse
Wed	4	19:30	Knit 2 Together	Pillar Hall
Thur	5	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Fri	6	19:00	Christmas Tree decoration	Sanctuary
Sat	7	10:00	Football: BV v White Lightning	Contact Team
Sun	8	11:00	Admission of new members	Sanctuary
Sun	8	12:15	Nativity rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun	8	13:00	The NET Christmas Lunch	Halls
Tues	10	19:00	Connect Plus Christmas Party	Pillar Hall
Sat	14	10:00	Football: BV v Gorgie (Cup)	Contact Team
Sun	15	11:00	Kingdom Kids Christmas service	Sanctuary
Sun	15	18:30	Carols on the Steps	Sanctuary
Thur	19	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Sun	22	18:30	Carols by Candlelight	Sanctuary
Tues	24	23:00	Watchnight service	Sanctuary
Wed	25	10:30	Christmas Day service	Sanctuary
Sun	29	PM	No evening service	

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





Sun	5	PM	No evening service	
Thur	9	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Thur	16	19:30	Bible study group	Pillar Hall
Sun	19	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Pillar Hall
Tues	21	12:30	Afternoon Fellowship Burns Lunch	Golf Tavern
Tues	21	17:00	<b>February Magazine Deadline</b>	
Thur	23	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Sun	26	09:45	Gillespie Crescent Service	Gillespie Cres
Mon	27	19:00	Kirk Session	Pillar Hall
Thur	30	19:30	Bible study group	Pillar Hall
Fri	31	19:00	Learning Community	Pillar Hall



Sat	1	10:30	Learning Community	Pillar Hall
Sun	2	12:15	Church Lunch	Pillar Hall
Tues	4	14:00	Afternoon Fellowship: Linten Adie Singers	Pillar Hall
Thur	6	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Thur	13	19:30	Bible study group	Pillar Hall
Sun	16	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Pillar Hall
Tues	18	17:00	<b>March Magazine Deadline</b>	
Thur	20	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Sun	23	10:00	Gillespie Crescent Service	Gillespie Cres
Sun	23	18:30	Informal Communion	Pillar Hall
Mon	24	10:30	Pathways	Pillar Hall
Wed	26	19:00	Ash Wednesday service	Sanctuary
Thur	27	19:30	Bible study group	Pillar Hall
Sat	29	TBC	Roofbreakers Conference	Pillar Hall

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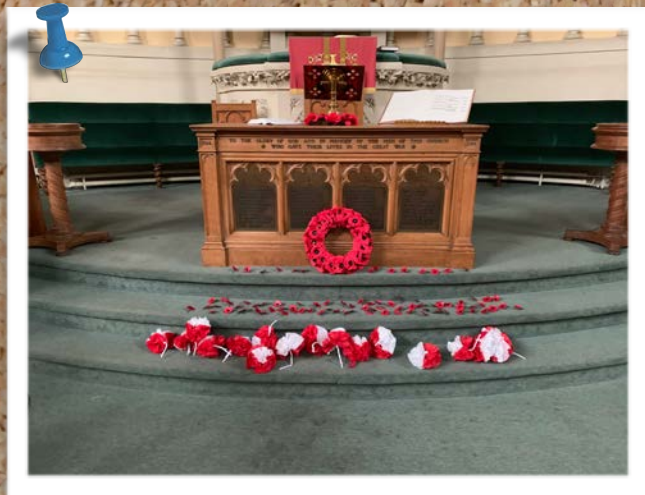




Defibrillator training



Welcoming Rachel Torry



Poppies for Remembrance



Thanks to all who gifted shoeboxes and gave their time to sort them ready for shipping

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

