



Link

March 2018

Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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Spring! Seasons for growth?

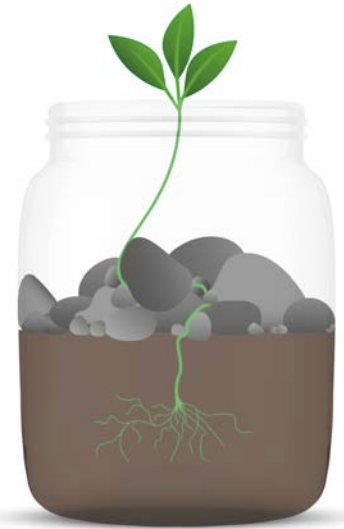
See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. (Song of Songs 2:11–13)

It has been a long winter! Far too long! But the good news is that it will end! Honestly! The dark, cold, frozen, experience of winter will yield to the coming of Spring. In fact the signs of spring are all around us, even as winter seems determined to stay. Crocuses, snowdrops and moments of glorious sunshine battle with the snow, rain and chilling Siberian wind.

Thinking of those early seeds springing into life is the

inspiration for our Easter theme. There is something inside a seed that wants to grow. Given the right soil and enough warmth and rain it will grow to become what it's intended to be, and fulfil the purpose and potential within it. And that power to grow is so great that a wee seed can and does grow upwards through hard obstacles such as stones, gravel, tarmac, even at times concrete! If you and I could be likened to seeds, and I think the Bible draws that analogy, then there is within us a desire to grow!

Unfortunately life does present us with obstacles or challenges to our growth. There might be doubt, fear, failure, disillusionment, even our unsundered selves, standing in the way of our growing into more of what we can be. Katelynne Kirk and the Communications Team have come up with an image for our Lenten/Easter series. It shows a seedling growing through stones. These stones are the obstacles we face in life but planted in a faith environment, and warmed by the love of God, and energised by a Risen Lord we grow through these into more of who God wants us to be. Our winter seasons give way to Spring and with it new life, new energy and the sound of heartfelt singing!



I (Paul) planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. (1 Corinthians 3:6)

Congregational roll	
Births	
Isaac David Black	20 February
<i>a son for Rachel and Andrew and baby brother for Reuben</i>	
Deaths	
Helen Cooper	12 February
Margaret Wood	14 February
Margaret MacKenzie	14 February
Adam Watson	25 February
Baptism and membership	
Kevin Willcox	25 February
Membership	
Ana Willcox	25 February



A Children and Families Development Worker for BVC



The Kirk Session have been considering the congregation's staffing needs, looking to our current position and future plans.

Ian Sutherland's work as Mission Facilitator (and the work of Howard and Pete before him) had, we felt, better equipped the congregation *itself* to take forward mission work. And there was a feeling we had a particular responsibility to resource work with children and families, given the large number of youngsters who are part of BVC.

So, following the ending of the Mission Facilitator role, we will be looking to employ a **Children and Families Development Worker**. Rather than seeking someone who will take on as many of the tasks as possible themselves, the role will focused on development, in particular the nurture and development of:

- spiritual growth in our children and young people, making it sustainable as they grow older
- volunteers, to work in this ministry
- a sustainable child-centred focus in BVC, making sure this engages the wider church family, across all generations.

A job description is being finalised and we will be advertising for applicants during March.

John Ritchie

Perseverance – a challenge

How many words containing four or more letters can you make from the word PERSEVERANCE? Each word must contain the letter P. Use each letter once and no plurals, foreign words or proper nouns are allowed.

Can you persevere and list at least 30 words? Try to do this without using reference books etc. Please return answers in a sealed envelope marked 'perseverance' to the office by Sunday 25 March at the latest. A small prize will be awarded to the winner. Remember to add your name and phone number. Good luck!

Moira Bain

Holy Week and Easter 2018



Palm Sunday

Sunday 25 March, 11:00/18:30

Our quarterly communion service falls on Palm Sunday this year, a fitting start to Holy Week. There will be an informal communion service in the evening too.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 29 March, 19:00

A reflective service of Communion focusing on the Last Supper.

Good Friday

Friday 30 March, 19:00

Take time to remember the crucifixion and reflect at this meditative service.

Easter on Blackford Hill

Sunday 1 March, 08:30

Park at the observatory and meet us at the top of the hill for a short, informal service of worship for all ages. There will be some singing, some prayer, and definitely time to roll some eggs.

Easter breakfast

Sunday 1 April, 09:30

Sign up if you plan to join us for breakfast in the halls between the service on Blackford Hill and our all-age worship. Let the team know of any special dietary requirements.

Easter Sunday all-age worship

Sunday 1 April, 11:00

Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the heart of our faith story, with the BVC family at our usual time.

Origin Scotland Resurrection concert

Sunday 1 April, 19:00, Usher Hall

Instead of the evening service, you are encouraged to join us at the Origin Scotland concert. Please book your free ticket in advance to ensure entry.



Afternoon Fellowship

Burns Lunch

After the Christmas break we resumed the Fellowship on Tuesday 23 January with our annual Burns Lunch, which was attended by around 30 members with friends, and we were delighted to welcome Norman Jamieson, who also joined us for lunch. We were especially pleased that Miss Roberta Thomson was able to join us and we were even more delighted when she announced that she would do the Address to the Haggis. We were also joined by Elaine Rumney and Anna Nicholson, our musicians, who played some inspiring music and led the community singing. I think it is safe to say that a good time was had by all, but these events do not just happen, so a very big *thank you* goes to the ladies in the kitchen, who provided an excellent lunch and also to the ladies who set up the tables and served the food.



Walking the St Magnus Way

In October, Elaine Hogan accompanied by Ann Paterson set out to walk the St Magnus Way, and this was the topic for our February meeting. Considering the health problems that Elaine had during last year it was very brave of her even to think about doing this walk, but with *perseverance* they both set out on their travels. Elaine brought along some lovely slides and talked us through the walk. From the outset the weather was not in their favour and they had to deal with high winds and rain – not exactly what they wanted – but not being deterred they started afresh each morning (after praying for good weather) to see what the day ahead held for them. Some days were better than others, but with the weather deteriorating and Elaine getting stuck in the mud the ladies decided for health reasons and to their disappointment it would be best to bring their walk to an end. I think we have to congratulate both ladies for their resilience and from what I hear they are planning another walk some time in the future.



Scottish Love in Action

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 6 March**, and we are having a Speaker from Scottish Love in Action (a charity that supports vulnerable children in India), which should be very interesting. If you are free please come along, as you will be made very welcome.

Jean Macaulay

Ferrywell Youth Project

The Ferrywell Youth Project (FYP) is a charity based in Edinburgh, primarily working with young people from Pilton, Muirhouse and Drylaw, which Barclay Viewforth supported with £2,500 in 2017. That was a year of growing opportunities with the work in North Edinburgh. We are so thankful for a God who provides and who answers prayer. We have challenges and difficulties but God has been faithful. Here are some highlights:

- It has been so encouraging to see increased numbers in many of the groups that we run week by week.
- We have had four new volunteers helping, though more are needed!
- Monthly prayer meetings with local Christians and churches bring together folks from a wide range of backgrounds but all united in Christ Jesus.
- A successful holiday club in August 2017 ran for three days with a team from many different churches and backgrounds.
- We had our busiest DIME weekend to date with 37 teenagers.
- A number of young people are growing in faith, attending church and asking searching questions about God and being a Christian.
- Jane Hurst started with us in September, working 12 hours a week, including offering counselling support for young people in the local high school. This was made possible through increased financial support.

Some prayer points for the next few months:

- That young people will be amazed and open to responding to who Jesus is
- For the four young people and two leaders going on the Vine Trust 'Homebuilding Expedition' to Tanzania in April 2018
- That those young people having taken a step of faith would be disciplined and nurtured and grow
- For more volunteers to help respond to our growing numbers in groups.

The prayerful and financial support from your church is hugely appreciated. Thank you for helping make this ministry possible. If you would like to know more or explore helping then please email john.gillan@ferrywell.org.uk.



John Gillan, Project Leader

Riding Lights

Can you offer accommodation to one or more members of Riding Lights for a week at the end of April? Please email the office as soon as possible.

Flower rota

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



	Donated by	Arranged by
5	Margaret George	TBC
12	Mairi Gordon	TBC
19	Dianne Miller	TBC
26	Rena Young	Sue Hindle

Kitchen notes: crispy baked gnocchi

There is nothing as exciting as a new cookbook. I received a book full of one-pan oven-baked meals last month and found several interesting-looking recipes. What I really like is that the book aims to provide some recipes to start with as a basic concept and then at the start of each chapter it provides tables of ingredients which cook in similar ways so that you can 'mix and match' with every recipe – a recipe book that encourages experimentation! The recipe below is very simple to make and incredibly tasty. It might even make its way into my repertoire for Meals for Mums.

- 500 g gnocchi
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 300 g vine tomatoes cut into eighths
- 125 g mozzarella cut into 1 cm chunks
- Large bunch fresh basil
- 40 g pine nuts

1. Set the oven to 200 °C.
2. Place gnocchi in a large bowl, cover with boiling water for 2 mins, then drain.
3. Tip gnocchi into a roasting tin with the oil and mix well.
4. Tuck in tomatoes, mozzarella and half the basil, season.
5. Roast for 20 mins.
6. Sprinkle pine nuts on top and bake for a further 5 mins.
7. Serve with remaining basil torn on the top.



Linda Garside

God our Mother

To be a Mother is to suffer;
 To travail in the dark,
 stretched and torn,
 exposed in half-naked humiliation,
 subjected to indignities
 for the sake of new life.

To be a Mother is to say,
'This is my body, broken for you,'
 And, in the next instant, in response to the
 created's primal hunger,
'This is my body, take and eat.'

To be a Mother is to self-empty,
 To neither slumber nor sleep,
 so attuned You are to cries in the night –
 Offering the comfort of Yourself,
 and assurances of *'I'm here.'*

To be a Mother is to weep
 over the fighting and exclusions and
 wounds
 your children inflict on one another;
 To long for reconciliation and brotherly love
 and – when all is said and done –
 To gather all parties, the offender and the
 offended,
 into the folds of your embrace
 and to whisper in their ears
 that they are Beloved.

To be a mother is to be vulnerable –
 To be misunderstood,
 Railed against,
 Blamed
 For the heartaches of the bewildered
 children
 who don't know where else to cast
 the angst they feel
 over their own existence
 in this perplexing universe

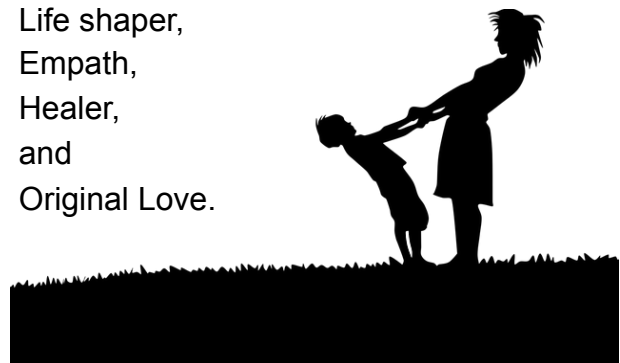
To be a mother is to hoist onto your hips
 those on whom your image is imprinted,
 bearing the burden of their weight,
 rejoicing in their returned affection,
 delighting in their wonder,
 bleeding in the presence of their pain.

To be a mother is to be accused of
 sentimentality one moment,
 And injustice the next.
 To be the Receiver of endless demands,
 Absorber of perpetual complaints,
 Reckoner of bottomless needs.

To be a mother is to be an artist;
 A keeper of memories past,
 Weaver of stories untold,
 Visionary of lives looming ahead.

To be a mother is to be the first voice
 listened to,
 And the first disregarded;
 To be a Mender of broken creations,
 And Comforter of the distraught children
 whose hands wrought them.

To be a mother is to be a Touchstone
 and the Source,
 Bestower of names,
 Influencer of identities;
 Life giver,
 Life shaper,
 Empath,
 Healer,
 and
 Original Love.



Allison Woodard, for *The Liturgists* (2017)

www.allisonwoodard.com

Humble thanks and an update

'I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.' (Ephesians 1:16)



My family and I want to thank the Kirk Session and all in the congregation who extended warm wishes and kind gifts to us on the ending of my contract working as Mission Facilitator on 31 December.

I want to say that I have greatly enjoyed my time amongst you in BVC, and I have found being part of this leadership team a wonderful experience.

Please be assured of our ongoing prayers for the blessing of God to flow into and through BVC, and I look forward to any connections in the future.

As I move on, you might be interested in what I am doing going forward. In addition to church planting in Dunfermline (www.kingsfellowship.net) and developing a coaching business (www.burnsidecoaching.co.uk) I am now working as a UK development worker for a charity working in North Iraq protecting indigenous and refugee children in the Kurdish region (www.step-uk.org).

I would value your prayers in these endeavours and any God prompted support you can give to these areas of work. God bless you as you seek to make God's love known through Jesus Christ.

Iain Sutherland and family

Reminder: fire safety

We worship in a wonderful building, but it is large and complex. Fire safety is important. **Please make sure you know where the nearest exit is when you are in the building.**

Doorkeepers ensure fire safety in an emergency, so if the alarm sounds, look to them for guidance. You can check the full fire procedure, including gathering points, on notice boards throughout the building.

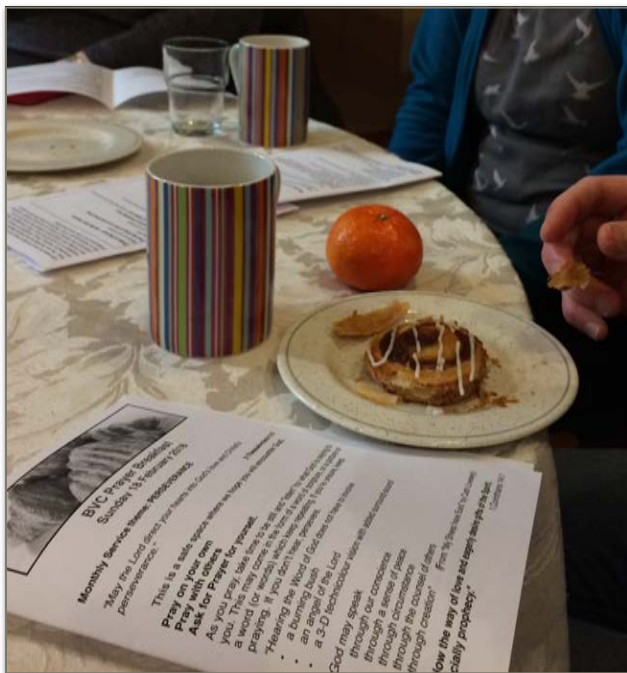


Time to pray?

Do you feel like the author of this poem? It can be hard to take time out of your day, your week or even your month to pray.

If your prayer life needs a kick start, come along to our monthly prayer breakfasts. On the third Sunday of the month, we share a tasty continental-style meal and then pray together around the theme of the month.

The prayer time is quiet and informal. You can pray on your own or with others, or ask for prayer for yourself.



I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,
and heavier came each task.
'Why doesn't God help me?' I
wondered.
He answered, 'You didn't ask.'

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on, grey and
bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show
me.
He said, 'But you didn't seek.'

I tried to come into God's
presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
'My child, you didn't knock.'

I woke up early this morning,
and paused before entering the
day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I had to take time to pray.

Anon

Friends International vision and equipping day

The world of global mission is changing. Ministry among migrants is a growing phenomenon, including among international students.

Join us at Friends International Scotland's vision and equipping day – New Global Mission – renewing our vision for how international student ministry fits into the wider landscape of world mission, and equipping us for the task today.

This event will be held at Bishopbriggs Community Church on Saturday 17 March from 10:30 to 16:30. Tickets cost £10–20 and can be booked via EventBrite.

Football update

Following Saturday's match at Meadowmill against Port Seton I remembered our changing room was one of two, but which one? I paused hoping for a clue: from inside room 10 laughter sounded. 'Did you score four, Jonny?' someone jovially enquired. Room 9 it was then.

BV's results have been disappointing of late with losses of 6–3 against St Columba's Free Church in the Cup, 3–0

against Niddrie Community Church and 8–0 against Port Seton in the league. If the sport were rugby football as opposed to association one could of course draw rather more encouragement from such score lines; yet potentially the turnaround required may not be so great. Against St Columba's Free a number of individual errors let our opponents get away. BV at one point had commendably pulled it back from 4–0 to 4–3 in an all-or-nothing cup group match. Even against Port Seton BV were creating good chances and were still very much in the match at 2–0 until defensive frailties were punished by two further goals early in the second half. After that the proverbial floodgates opened.

Some relatively small tweaks may yet reap significant dividends. Re-establishing training sessions, which haven't got properly underway yet in 2018 despite Chris Whelan's readiness to lead, will be important in any turnaround. As of last weekend Barclay Viewforth prop up the table but are only a solitary point adrift, and a mere six points separate the bottom six. Upcoming back-to-back matches against the league's other Kirk representatives, Bristo Memorial, are true 'six pointers' in both league and cup. Certainly victory against the Craigmillar team is essential if Barclay are to scrape a quarter final slot. In the league BV are 6 points behind Bristo with a game in hand.

Turning to yesteryear, 16 February marked a decade since the church's team played its first ever competitive match, the opening leg of an ESCFA Cup encounter against Musselburgh Baptists. Quite a few current and recent congregation members were in the squad that day: Andrew Paterson, Matt Hogan, Scott Watson, Bob Milne, Charlie Cumming, Gerry McHugh, Andro Sneddon, as well as Sam Torrens and myself. My joint abiding memories of the day don't include the score, although it was 1–0 to the Honest Toonies and a goalless draw in the second leg. Rather it was the pretty spectacular 'tantrum' by the opposition goalkeeper and a wild attempted tackle I experienced from behind, which had it actually connected with my right leg would probably have ended a then fast-approaching holiday to New Zealand. Both incidents justifiably resulted in referee Tam Carter producing his notebook. Where did all that time go?



Andrew Stephenson



A thank you

I would very much like to thank my friends in the BV congregation for their many cards, messages, flowers, gifts and prayers over the Festive Season when I was unwell.

They were all very much appreciated. I was disappointed not to be able to return them at the time and to have missed some very special services.

However, I am happy to report that I'm recovering well, taking things gently and looking forward to catching up with you all soon.

Jean Gelly

Annual Stated Meeting

Don't miss the Annual Stated Meeting, which will take place on **Wednesday 21 March**. Find out about what's happened in the last year, where we are going next year and what your money is being spent on.

Stepping out is hard

The February theme of perseverance has been particularly apt in our house. My daughter is learning to walk. Each day, I have seen her spend literally hours practising by holding on to furniture, her baby walker or my hands.

At first, each time she falls over, slips or struggles, she makes that decision to keep going. She can see the prize! Her mum and dad show her that every day. She knows that walking brings both freedom and safety.

But as I write this, she's at a critical stage. She can walk now. All the mechanics are there. Yet, she still clings to the furniture. This stage of her perseverance is the hardest: she has to take a risk, be willing to fall, and let go.

When God calls us towards something, that can be the hardest part – the part where we have to step out in faith. We have to be willing to fall a few (or even many) times. Taking a risk is hard, especially after we have already had to persevere, but it is what enables us to reach the prize.

Emma Torry



Useful information

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Organist

Michael Bonaventure

Worship Band Leader Anna Nicholson

Missional communities(*), groups and teams

Afternoon Fellowship Jean Macaulay

Blessing*

[TBC]

Celebrate Recovery*

Sam Torrens

Connect Plus*

Elaine Rumney

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

All telephone numbers are Edinburgh (0131) area code, unless otherwise stated. If no telephone number is displayed, 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 (Sunday mornings) or the church office.

Articles should preferably be 400 words or less, or slightly less than one A4 page at 14pt. Content for the **April** issue must be submitted by 17:00 on **Tuesday 13 March**.



Thur	1	19:00	Choir practice	Pillar Hall
Sat	3	10:00	Football: BVU v. Bristo Memorial (Cup)	<i>[Ask Team]</i>
Sun	4	12:15	Church lunch	Pillar Hall
Tues	6	14:30	Afternoon Fellowship: Scottish Love in Action	Pillar Hall
Tues	6	19:00	Bereavement support training	Lauriston Room
Sat	10	10:00	Football: BVU v. White Lightning	<i>[Ask Team]</i>
Sun	11	11:00	Mothering Sunday service	Sanctuary
Mon	12	19:00	Congregational Board	Pillar Hall
Tues	13	17:00	Magazine article deadline	
Tues	13	19:00	Connect Plus	Pillar Hall
Thur	15	19:00	Choir practice	Pillar Hall
Sat	17	10:30	New Global Mission (Friends International)	<i>Bishopbriggs Community Church</i>
Sat	17	15:00	Bede Windband Concert	<i>Edinburgh Methodist Church</i>
Sun	18	09:45	Prayer breakfast	Pillar Hall
Mon	19	19:00	Friends of Meadows and Bruntsfield Links open meeting	Pillar Hall
Tues	20	19:00	Bereavement support training	Lauriston Room
Wed	21	19:00	Annual Stated Meeting	Sanctuary
Sun	25	01:00	CLOCKS GO FORWARD	
Sun	25	09:45	Gillespie Crescent communion	<i>Gillespie Cres</i>
Sun	25	11:00	Communion service	Sanctuary
Sun	25	18:30	Informal communion service	Sanctuary
Tues	27	19:00	Connect Plus	Pillar Hall
Thur	29	19:00	Choir practice	Pillar Hall
Thu	29	19:00	Maundy Thursday service	Sanctuary
Fri	30	19:00	Good Friday service	Sanctuary
Sat	31	Day	Prophecy course	TBC

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



Sun	1	08:30	Easter morning service on Blackford Hill	<i>Blackford Hill</i>
Sun	1	09:30	Breakfast at church	Halls
Sun	1	11:00	Easter Sunday all-age service	Sanctuary
Sun	1	19:30	Resurrection concert	<i>Usher Hall</i>
Tues	3		<i>No Toddlers</i>	
Sat	7	10:00	Football: BVU v. Gorgie	<i>[Ask Team]</i>
Tues	10		<i>No Toddlers</i>	
Sun	15	09:45	Prayer breakfast	Pillar Hall
Mon	16	19:00	Kirk Session	Pillar Hall
Sat	21	10:00	Football: BVU v. St Mary's Metropolitan	<i>[Ask Team]</i>
Sat	28	10:00	Football: BVU v. AC Oxfords	<i>[Ask Team]</i>
Sat	28	TBC	Riding Lights Roughshod	Sanctuary
Sun	29	18:30	Informal communion service	Sanctuary

Correction – Bethany Night Shelter

BVC are no longer hosting the Bethany Night Shelter on 9 and 10 March. Thanks to funding from Social Bite, the night shelter will now be at Meadowbank Church for the rest of the winter.

Publication date of the magazine

Following feedback from the congregation, the Communications team have decided to amend the publication date of the magazine from the first Sunday of the month to **the Sunday closest to the start of the month**. As a notable exception, the April issue will be published on 25 March, due to the timing of Easter. The publication dates between now and the summer double issue are:

- April: Sunday 25 Mar 2018
- May: Sunday 29 Apr 2018
- June: Sunday 3 Jun 2018
- July/August: Sunday 1 Jul 2018



Can you guess where this was taken from?



Persevering on the way to Quest and Next



Persevering in prayer over breakfast



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



Starting Lent the Pancake Way