



Link magazine

February 2021

Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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Prayer

Psalm 32:6 These things add up. Every one of us needs to pray; when all hell breaks loose and the dam bursts we'll be on high ground, untouched. (MSG)

At the end of last year the staff team decided that we should have a focus on prayer. It has been a difficult year for so many people and it looks like it could be some time before any sort of normalising takes place. It has not been totally negative though – research shows that young people are developing an interest in faith, online services are reaching people who have no previous connection with church and there is an upsurge in people looking for resources on prayer.

On Sunday mornings as we approach Easter we are going to be thinking about prayer – specifically, the Lord's Prayer. The plan is that we will take the prayer a section per week and we will think about how it relates to us today. We know that people learn differently, so each week we will talk about a different way to pray – because each of us prays differently too! There are many different styles of prayer and some will appeal to you more than others. That's perfectly normal – it's also not suggesting you don't try something new just because it's new. Sometimes we need to persevere with a new thing to realise the benefit of it.

We would like to be able to share some resources with you as we work through the different styles, but we do not want to bombard you with information you don't want.



So, we are asking you to sign up to receive this information. Please contact the office: 01312296810 or administrator@barclayviewforth.org.uk and let us know if you want to receive the info by email or on a WhatsApp group. As an aside, there are still some people who have not signed up to receive our weekly news via Mailchimp so you may be missing out on news from the congregation – I would encourage you to sign up to keep up to date. We won't use your email for any other purpose. It may be that you have given your email before and assume we have it, but to cover us under GDPR you must specifically sign up for the newsletter via the website: www.barclayviewforth.org.uk

In order to put some of the things we learn about prayer into practice, we are doing 24 hours of prayer from 8pm on Saturday 27th March through to 8pm on Sunday 28th March. The hope is that at least one person will sign up to pray every hour – and you can book in for more than one hour! Of course, it's not just for individuals: families, friends and groups can also take part. If you have never done something like this before you might think you couldn't pray for a whole hour, but my experience is that most people who try it for the first time come away saying that an hour was not enough! That's partly because we're going to provide resources you can use if you want to and they will help guide you through an hour.

We want to encourage as many of you as possible to participate so you won't need to be online during your hour, and you can simply contact the office – 01312296810 or administrator@barclayviewforth.org.uk – and we'll add your name. If you are not online and would like some useful info to help you pray, we can send that to you.

If you would like to join in you can sign up at this link: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/signup/aa5595>

Because we are doing this online there is no limit to the number of people who can sign up for a particular hour, so don't worry if you are looking for a time and discover someone else has already picked the same time.

In order to consolidate the learning, we are going to run a prayer course between Easter and Pentecost. Sometimes people worry about doing a 'course', particularly about prayer! You can choose to pray out loud, but you will not have to if you choose not to. You might

decide that you know enough about prayer, so you don't need to come; however, yours is the very experience we need to help and encourage others to learn. Perhaps you think everyone will be much more experienced than you so you will feel awkward.

Everyone starts somewhere and the course is designed for people who have never prayed before through to



those who are very experienced – and everyone learns something!

Coming full circle, I want to finish with something to pray through. You could think about your answer, or write them out or draw if you want to be a bit more creative – whatever suits you.

1. What am I most grateful for over this last year? What or who did you find God in/when or where were you aware more than usual of His presence?

Take some time, lingering with thankfulness as memories arise. Write a list if you want. Maybe you are more visual. Maybe use watercolours and paint a colour that seems to represent well each memory to you.

2. What am I least grateful for over this last year? When did you feel like you lost God or found it difficult to see Him/lost awareness of His presence?

Again, take time and be brave in acknowledging what has been hard and unwelcome. Do the same as above and write as a list in your journal or do a drawing.

3. What are you hoping for in this coming year?

Jesus had a habit of asking people, “What do you want Me to do for you?” Often the answer seemed quite obvious to them and everyone else around. This was partly because Jesus knows that there is almost always a deeper desire, a deeper cry within us than simply what is on the surface that entertains most of our attention.

So write down your spontaneous thoughts, but then take time to attend to those deeper stirrings. It may surprise you what is there below the surface, just waiting to be discovered and expressed in prayer.

When he came back to his disciples, he found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, “Can’t you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert; be in prayer so you don’t wander into temptation without even knowing you’re in danger. There is a part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there’s another part that’s as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire.” Matt 26:41

Let’s not be found asleep. Let’s pray!

David Clarkson

Congregational roll

Death

Thelma Winder (Elaine Dove’s sister)

5 January

Eric Jeffrey

22 January



Choirs of Angels

Community is a huge part of life at Barclay Viewforth, so the B.V. Creative Group and others decided to try and spread a little joy in December. Following the example of other churches, we knitted and crocheted angels for the church to give away, hoping to remind people that Christmas wasn't cancelled. Our little choirs of angels were hung on the railings and a sign was put up asking people to take one home. The sign, and then later the ribbon attaching the angels, included the hashtag #ChristmasIsNotCancelled for anyone with Instagram to share their photos online. We also asked people to share their photos on our Facebook page so we could see where the angels ended up. And boy did they go far and wide, even to France!



All in all, over 400 angels flew to new homes via the railing display and by other church members giving them out – the Afternoon Fellowship leaders included one in every goody bag for the group members and the Pastoral Team gave some to people they visited. Thank you so much to everyone who helped knit and crochet, who helped give out the angels and everyone who sent us lovely messages. The angels found homes on Christmas trees, on windows (so everyone could see), on a home-made Christmas wreath and they even featured in the Christmas film made by the Next group!

'Thank you for our wonderful unique Angel. We are so grateful to have been given one.'

'Many thanks... for bringing some festive cheer to the neighbourhood, she is beautiful!'

To see some of the photos, head to our Instagram profile @BarclayViewforthChurch or our Facebook page.



Sometimes we might not know how we as individuals can reach out to the community, but this is just one way to show people we care. Our next project is something for Easter so if you'd like to get involved or you would just like to join our 'Craft and Chatter' zoom call on a Thursday evening please contact creative@barclayviewforth.org.uk or call the church office on 0131 229 6810.



Our zoom call is very relaxed – you can grab a cuppa and just enjoy a chat, or you can bring a project to work on too. We're hoping we will occasionally have workshops at Craft and Chatter this year too, so get in touch for more information!

Katelynne Kirk

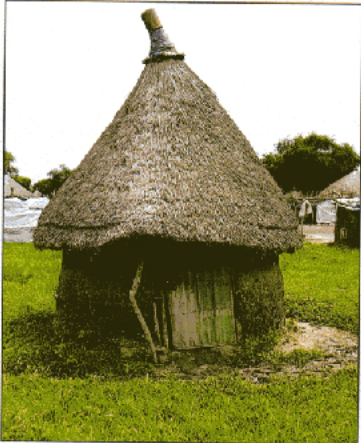
Toilet Twinning

As some of you may remember, the surplus from the contributions for tea/coffee/lunch for 2020 was to twin some of our toilets, possibly eight. By the time all socialising in the Pillar Hall had to stop a surplus of £128.67 had accumulated. This has allowed us to twin two of our toilets and make a donation to Toilet Twinning of £8.67. As you can see from the copies of the certificates, one is in South Sudan and one in the Democratic Republic of Congo which, in time, you will be able to see in situ in a loo.


It is hoped that some time later this year we might be back drinking tea and coffee in the Pillar Hall and able to twin some more toilets – let’s hope so!

Janet Darling

THIS TOILET HAS BEEN
TWINNED
BY BARCLAY VIEWFORTH CHURCH




WITH A LATRINE IN
SOUTH SUDAN
Latitude: 7.16706 Longitude: 31.40792
Panyagor, Kongor, Twic East, Latrine No. 85054




1 in 4 people around the world don't have a loo.
By supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping to flush away poverty.
Toilet Twinning is a registered charity (number 268466 in England and Wales) and number SC033624 in Scotland.

F/116426

THIS TOILET HAS BEEN
TWINNED
BY BARCLAY VIEWFORTH CHURCH



WITH A LATRINE IN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
Latitude: -3.98211 Longitude: 28.07387
Katupu, South Kivu, Latrine No. 36050



1 in 4 people around the world don't have a loo.
By supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping to flush away poverty.
Toilet Twinning is a registered charity (number 268466 in England and Wales) and number SC033624 in Scotland.

F/116426

On losing our third space

The term 'third space' has many meanings, but in this context I am talking about physical space. I can't remember where I first heard about this idea, but the gist of it is that our homes are our first space; in general, our second space is our workplace; and then there should be somewhere else we can go—a place where we can meet friends and be ourselves. This could be some kind of community



space, or even a cafe. It's somewhere you are known, rather than somewhere you visit. For many Christians, the third space is the church building.

When I started working at Barclay Viewforth, I realised that essentially my second and third spaces were now the same, and I wondered how this would work. Of course, even before COVID, many people worked from home so their first and second places were the same. And now we are in a position of 'staying at home', and so all our spaces are one. Our home-space has become a blur of activities, not all of which are conducive to fulfilling what needs to get done. Some folk have the luxury of a home office where at the end of the working day the door can be closed, and a transition made. Most of us have to make do with a corner or a dining table (or for those with a laptop and particularly bad habits, they may work from bed – yes, that's where I am just now!).

For most of us this last year, our church time has become a virtual place where we can meet and chat to some extent, although it's not like being together. Even when we have been able to be in the building, the social element of our gatherings has been lacking. Of course, life everywhere has changed, and our times of communal worship have had to adapt as best we could. But what does this mean going forward?

I don't have any answers, I'm just pondering these things. But maybe now is a good time for all of us to reflect on how things used to be, and how we would like things to be when we are in a position to safely gather again, when we can once again greet and hug each other. What does our church building as our third space mean to us?

What are your thoughts on this? Do you think some things work better online? Why not write a few sentences for the next magazine as a response.

Julie Nicholson



TCP NEWS

As we drew to the end of what can only be described as an extraordinary year, we at TCP felt the need to draw closer to and show solidarity with the shopkeepers – many of whom had experienced real difficulty and known hardship and continuous change over this past year.

QUIZ

A Zoom quiz was suggested and organised for 25th November. Although only a handful of shopkeepers could make it on the night – it was a roaring success for those who could. The camaraderie and excitement generated by the quiz, very ably run by Elaine Hogan, made it a very worthwhile event. Our thanks go to Chris Hogan for setting up the interesting array of questions for the quiz.

The overwhelming consensus was that another quiz night should be held sooner rather than later so that more shopkeepers and members of the congregation could get in on the fun.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The 4th of December saw TCP go out to our local community as part of our annual tradition of bearing gifts. This time the gift was a small knitted red and white Christmas stockings, the beautiful handiwork of Barbara, filled with a candle, a verse on strip of paper wrapped around the candle and sweeties.

These gifts of love were, as always, well-received by the shopkeepers – many being touchingly surprised by the gesture.

TCP team

Afternoon Fellowship

It's been great to see how many of our older members have been getting to grips with technology in recent months. The Afternoon Fellowship have learned a few things and have been able to enjoy a quiz in November (where they learned that the minister is extremely competitive) and a Christmas Fun afternoon a few days before Christmas. While it doesn't quite make up for the fun and games that can be shared in person, it has been great to catch up with people.

Looking ahead, it doesn't seem as though this group will be able to meet safely before Easter so we will plan on having monthly meetings by Zoom. Please remember that, even if you have no technology, you will be able to participate in this from your home phone.

Dates for Meetings (all Tuesday afternoon)

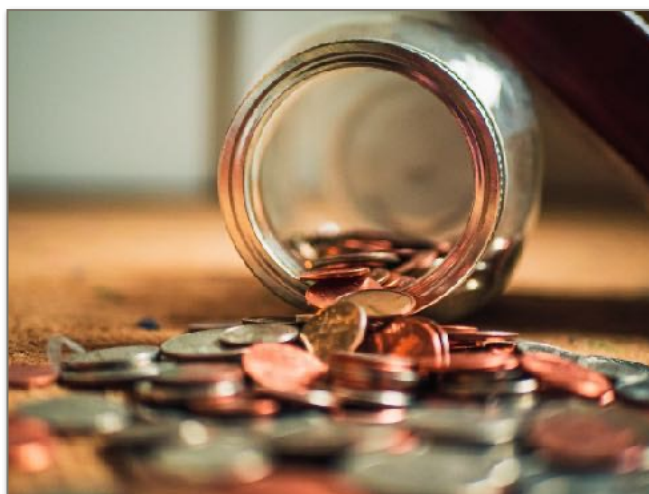
- 2 Feb at 2:00
- 2 Mar at 2:00
- 30 Mar at 2:00

All are welcome at these meetings.

Offerings in 2020

The Session and Finance Group would like to thank all who used envelopes for their offerings prior to normal regular worship being stopped and who have continued to give regularly by setting up standing orders, using bank transfer or sending cheques to the treasurer. Their thanks also go to those who continued – and in some cases, increased – standing orders during the year and those who gave Thank Offerings, the total of which was more than 2019.

Maintaining the level of offerings, the main source of regular income, is always very important, but even more so at a time when the income from the use of premises is substantially reduced. Unfortunately, the reduction in income is not matched by a proportionate reduction in expenditure and so we are particularly grateful for your continued commitment.



John Ritchie (Session Clerk), Janet Darling (Treasurer) & Bob Elrick (Finance Convenor)



Kingdom Kids

Lent in Colour

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 17 February this year. Traditionally, Lent is a period of deep reflection, prayer and fasting for Christians around the globe.

While we will be journeying through Lent 2021 in our own homes, choosing to mark Lent is one way we can explore a connection with other Christians, and deepen our relationship with God.

One of my favourite ways to pray through Lent is through the beautiful designs produced by Praying in Color (note the US spelling). Sybill Macbeth creates blank calendars every year which are ready to be filled with a small doodle each day. The idea is to draw as you pray, or fill the space with something you prayed for. As the 40 days pass, the page is filled with a visual reminder of the time spent with God.

The calendars are free to download and can be printed at home. Head to www.prayingincolor.com/handouts to choose your favourite.

Emma Torry

Rambling thoughts: Staying spiritually healthy



January is a time when we often reflect about our habits and whether they are healthy or need some improvement! The TV usually has a selection of diet programmes on in the first weeks of the year, aimed at those of us who overindulged during the festive season, or this year, 2020 in general. Winter is the time you want to comfort eat, and outdoor exercise is often weather-dependent, depending on how dedicated you are.

But how dedicated are we to our spiritual health? Did we also make New Year's resolutions that were to do with reading the Bible or praying? How about listening to God, or attending Zoom Bible study or Sunday prayer meeting?

Our physical health isn't always visible to others, and neither is our mental or spiritual health. But nothing is hidden from God. He knows how we are, inside and out, and He knows what we need to be healthy. And before we beat ourselves up for not being good enough, remember Jesus' words in Matthew 9:12 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill'. We are not expected to be in full spiritual health, but we need to always realise that it is our connection to God that nourishes us. And this nourishment needs constant topping up. If we start a healthy eating plan or an exercise regime and then forget about it, what good has it done us? And so we take each day that God gives us, and we ask him to help us. That's all we can do, and all we need to do. Let God guide our hours and days.

It's coming up for a year since we were last able to meet 'as normal', and we don't know when we will be back as a whole church family. It's been strange and it's been hard. But God has been with us all. In good times and bad, our God is faithful, and we just need to speak to Him. Tell Him how we feel, thank Him for the sun on our faces, or cry for help, laugh and scream. Include God in everything that's going on in your life. He knows about it already, but what father or friend doesn't want to hear from you first hand?

Julie Nicholson



Parenting for Faith

Struggling to know how to talk about God with your kids? Or needing ideas to bring faith alive at home?

Parenting for Faith has been set up by BRF to support Christian parents to care for the spiritual lives of their children.

They have a fantastic podcast which has covered how to celebrate harvest, talking about halloween, managing a lockdown Christmas, and much more from a Christian perspective. It's refreshingly British and full of practical tips.

Parenting for Faith also has a free online course all about sharing Christian faith at home.

And if that wasn't enough, they have a number of books including a new one about supporting the spiritual lives of babies and toddlers coming out soon.

Check out <https://parentingforfaith.org/> or find them on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

Emma Torry



Alpha Course 2021

2020 left you feeling lost, and full of questions about God, faith and Christianity?

Barclay Viewforth has started another series of the Alpha course, a safe space to ask those questions you can't ask anywhere else.

Alpha is for everyone – even if you consider yourself a Christian or have made a Christian commitment in the past, the course provides space to continue to explore what you believe with others.

Join the group on Thursdays at 7:30pm on Zoom. Please email the office to receive the link.

The Ministry Team

Accessing the Sunday Service

You can join our worship in a range of ways:

- Join us online live at 10:15 and 11:00 at **barclayviewforth.online.church** for real-time chat, and for Zoom 'meet and greet' between the services at 10:45
- Catch up with the service later by going to **barclayviewforth.org.uk** for the latest videos
- Previous services can also be found on **barclayviewforth.org.uk/sermons**
- You can also listen in to a specially curated audio service using Twillo by calling **0131 357 6007**.
- CDs of previous services are also available – please contact the office.



Please note that there are **no in-person services** due to the current lockdown restrictions.

If you would like to join the Sunday evening prayer meeting at 7pm on Zoom, please contact the office to receive the link via email each week.

Key contacts

Minister	Rev. David Clarkson	dclarkson@churchofscotland.org.uk
Administrator	Julie Nicholson	admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Pastoral Associate	Elaine Hogan	pastoral@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Children & Families Development Worker	Stefanie Conradt	children@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Session Clerk	John Ritchie	sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Treasurer	Janet Darling	treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Contacting the Church while the building is closed



If you need to contact the church staff during this time, you can telephone the office on 0131 229 6810 and leave a message. Messages are still being checked regularly.

You can contact all the church staff on their usual email addresses as listed above.