

April 2021

Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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## Growing Young with the Pandemic

The COVID pandemic has affected our lives with a suddenness that surprised and overwhelmed us all in one way or another. Now, one year later – as we draw near to our pandemic-anniversary – let us take a moment of reflection. What happened in our families and children's ministry?

I think it is fair to say that we grew young as we navigated through this pandemic year. Like toddlers starting to walk, we were rather unsure how to proceed and how to do everything online now. How does this even work? Every step seemed an effort. But steadily we made our way forward; growing stronger and growing up, as we took one step after another. We started our Kingdom Kids Zoom Chat (now fortnightly), continued to organise our monthly Kingdom Kids service and kept in touch via postcard or by dropping off greetings ... and let's not forget our online Presentation Sunday. We grew in our online capabilities and soon, like the preteens, we learned to bear our faces and voices as we recorded ourselves in selfie-mode and

then watched, cut and edited our videos ready for upload on YouTube. A highlight was the Ukulele workshop that brought crooked tunes and fun to the group. After summer we felt like the pros, and Christmas could be tackled with an amazing contribution from all families and leaders. The year 2020 has challenged us as a team, yes. But it has also brought us closer together as we stood in front of this new task together – all beginners, all toddlers



growing together. Leaders have taken up the task to continue their relationships with the kids – just being there. Listening to their stories, thinking of their birthdays, or playing silly games with great enthusiasm.

What's ahead? We need to look into the story of Easter for that:

Jesus dying on the cross brought great distress for all who loved him. His friends scattered and withdrew. They kept to their homes, hiding and self-isolating. Two of them left town contemplating the events on the road to Emmaus that very day that turned everything upside down. Jesus, the man they loved and buried just three days ago, was there in the midst of them. Eating, drinking, teaching and living life with them. This was a new beginning.



And this is exactly, what we are going to do this year. On the one hand, we are the same people, continuing our work. Jesus did not abandon his friends. He sought them, comforted them and mentored them – the same people. On the other hand, we seek to have new beginnings: in our leadership team, in our prayer lives and in our congregation. With both feet planted in the messiness of this life, we want to grow young with the toddlers, preteens and teens of our church to discover what a life with Jesus has to offer *them*. Through them we want to discover what a life with Jesus has to offer *us*.

This is an invitation to be with us on this journey. In prayer, in thoughts, but also with heart and hands. Seeking to connect with those about whom Jesus says: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Thank you for journeying with us in this tough time – I am looking forward to continuing growing young together. It is a blessing to be on this road with you.

*Stefanie Conradt*

## Congregational roll

### Birth

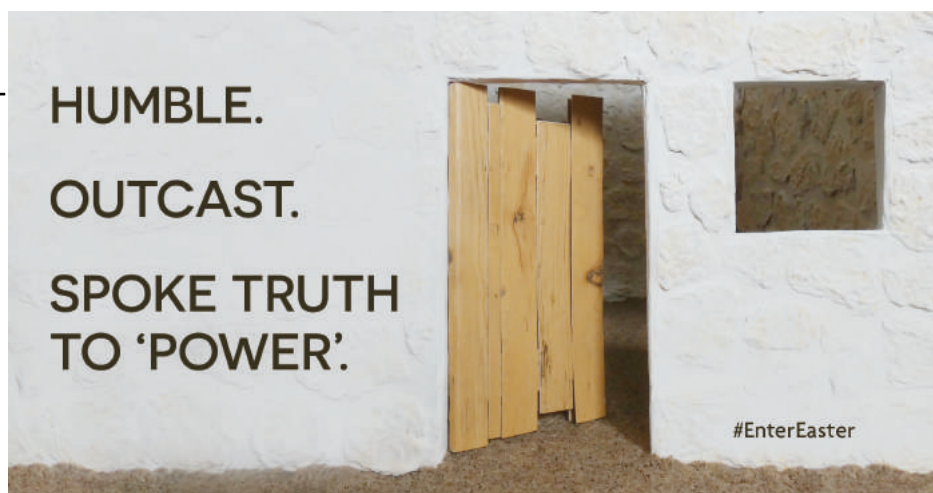
Charles “Charlie” Stewart Coyle

9 February 2021



## Easter 2021

As we look towards a second Easter worshipping as a scattered congregation, you are invited to join us for our Holy Week services via church online:



- Palm Sunday - 10:15 and 11:00
- Maundy Thursday Communion - 19:00
- Good Friday - 19:00
- Easter Sunday - 11:00

Subject to permission from Edinburgh Presbytery, Easter Sunday will be our first LIVE service of 2021. This service will, of course, be broadcast via the usual channels as well to allow as many people as possible to join us.

Bookings will be the same as before, opening on the Monday before a service and closing at noon on Thursday. The same rules apply including social distancing, mask wearing and no singing.

Information received from '121' says: "We need to find (nice) ways to encourage those who do attend to leave the church and its grounds and go home without standing around to chat – understandable though that desire may be. Having secured the opening of churches ahead of the opening of any other venues we need to be seen to be taking as much care as possible – even a dozen people mingling on the pavement doesn't look right and, of course, it provides an opportunity for the highly infectious virus to pass between us." Therefore, this is our 'nice' way of asking you to keep to the guidance at the end of the service.



Don't forget you can share Easter greetings family, friends and neighbours by downloading copies of our winning Easter cards! Head to <https://www.barclayviewforth.org.uk/whats-on> to save and print the pdfs.



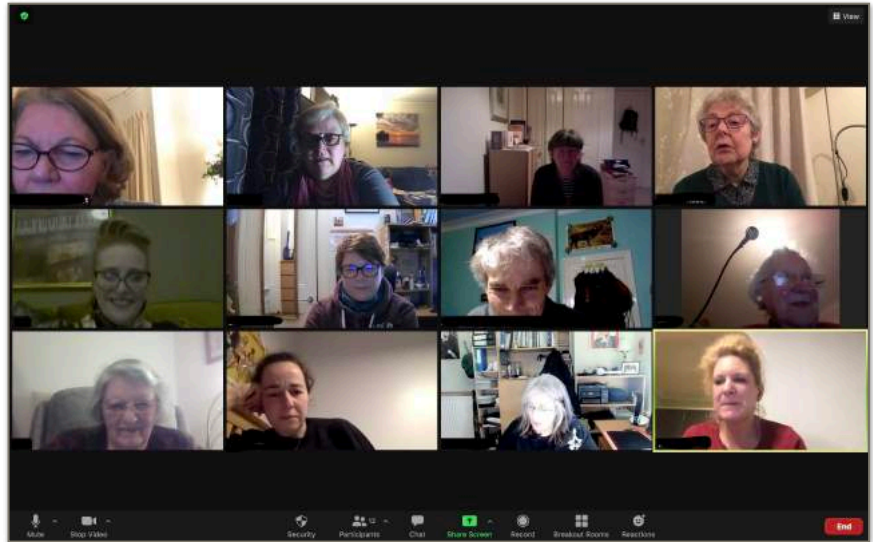
## TCP (Tollcross Community Pastors)



It was a real joy and encouragement to meet up on Zoom with the other learning communities last month and to hear how they are all busy engaging with their groups despite the restrictions.

We enjoyed another fun evening on Zoom with our shopkeeper friends on 9 March. It was an opportunity to catch up with all their news and plans for reopening, hopefully in the not too distant future.

Through a game we were also able to learn more about each other. The shopkeepers have also appreciated the support of the TCP team, even while some of them are closed. Everyone is longing for the day when we can all share a meal together in the Pillar Hall.



Plans to publish a newsletter in time for Easter are underway. The idea is to introduce 3 new businesses which have been set up during the pandemic to those we already visit.

Anyone interested in joining the team, even to see what it's all about, would be welcome to join us on our fortnightly Zoom call on a Friday morning at 10:30. Look out for dates in the weekly email.



*TCP team*

PS special thanks to Helen and Barbara for replanting and tending to the flowers on the cross. It really does bring a bit of colour and life to that side of the building.

## Putting prayer into practice

In order to put into practice some of the things we've learned about prayer over the past weeks, we are doing 24 hours of prayer from 8pm on Saturday 27 March through to 8pm on Sunday 28 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! We're going to provide resources you can use if you want to and they will help guide you through an hour. Some will be on the prayer page of the church website [www.barclayviewforth.org.uk/prayer](http://www.barclayviewforth.org.uk/prayer) and we will have videos and additional resources at [barclayviewforth.online.church](http://barclayviewforth.online.church)

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 on 01312296810 or [administrator@barclayviewforth.org.uk](mailto: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.

From Easter Sunday – 4 April – we are going to run the prayer course. It will be at 7pm each Sunday evening for 8 weeks. There is a short teaching video followed by time for questions and some praying. There will be no pressure on you to speak, or pray, if you are not comfortable doing that in public. Everybody is learning together and nobody has all the answers. In fact, you will be familiar with some of the content as some of it is covered in the book on prayer I have been using for Sundays (*How to Pray* by Pete Greig). The good



thing is that we're spending time with God and if you are willing to try new things, perhaps even taking a risk or two, I promise that you will be blessed. No pressure though. Do as much, or as little, as you want. I go to courses and conferences and often hear a leader say, "The more you put in, the more you'll get out." That's not always true, but it is about the prayer course!

Sign up on the prayer page of the website or email Julie at the office: [admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk](mailto:admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk)

*David Clarkson*

## Kingdom Kids Easter Trail

On this Easter trail you are not looking for Easter eggs! There is a message hidden for you. All you need is:

- [www.barclayviewforth.org.uk/kingdom-kids](http://www.barclayviewforth.org.uk/kingdom-kids)
- a pen
- sharp observation skills

Can you find all the clues to decode the message?

The trail starts on Palm Sunday (28 March) and will be open until 11 April.

*Stefanie Conradt*

## Good news - and lots of thanks!

Just to say a very big Thank You to everyone in the congregation who have sent messages, cards and gifts celebrating the arrival of Charles (Charlie) Stewart Coyle born on 9 February, weighing in at 8lbs 9ozs and 22" long.



Heather and Stuart have been quite overwhelmed by the love and support that has come from many BV members, so THANK YOU all. We're pleased to report that all is fine and so far baby Charlie is feeding and sleeping very well.

Meantime, Stewart and I are taking much pleasure in being Grandparents and Auntie Lindsey is also enjoying every minute of her new role. We're getting lots of photos – this one was the first and a favourite. Thank you all again.

*The Andersons*



## Decision fatigue

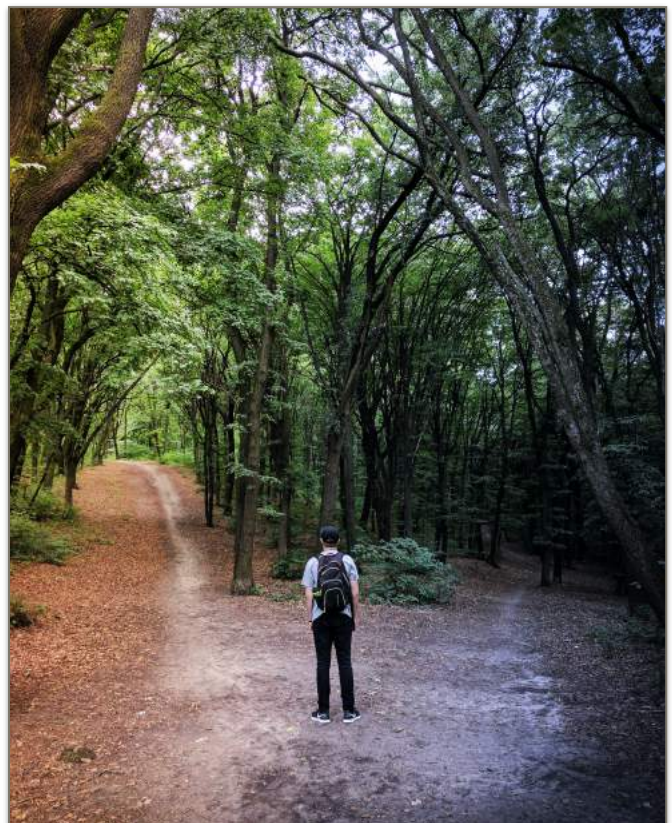
I was listening to a podcast last week which was talking about culture shock. For anyone who has lived abroad, experiencing the new challenges each day brings is to be expected. Going to the market or shop for essential supplies looks very different and takes up more time and energy than normal. Not knowing what is expected and what will happen day to day is hard work, and things you would normally take for granted now make you have to think and decide. It might be fun and exciting for a while but it is also exhausting. The time it takes to adjust to these new surroundings and circumstances is a year, a whole cycle of seasons and occasions that mark the passage of time.

But what this podcast was highlighting was that the world has been in culture shock since we went into lockdown last March. All our normal practices changed overnight and things we did without thinking about them before now had to be planned (gone shopping and forgotten your mask, anyone?). This abnormality has resulted in more stress, along with all the other changes we have had to manage. Remember when we used to be able to pop in to see someone and have a cup of tea? Or go to a cafe... or go to church and enjoy fellowship together (along with cups of tea). Remember sharing cake after services? Now we have to decide our every move. Who can we meet, where can we meet them. Do we really need to go to the shop, or should we order online, or can we do without? Should we go to another Zoom meeting or should we rest our eyes from the computer screen?

Decisions, decisions, decisions. It tires us out. The more decisions we make each day the harder it becomes (best to make hard decisions first thing in your day, as by evening your brain finds it more challenging). Maybe Kirk Session should meet for breakfast!

What makes life easier is if we decide something once, so it then is a fact and not something we have to re-visit. At this point I am going to quote a hymn 'I have decided to follow Jesus... no turning back, no turning back'. That is a decision I made long ago as a child. And it is of course the best decision I ever made. And of course, God decided long before we were born that we were loved. All we have to do is say yes and return that love. That decision will be one that doesn't bring fatigue, but brings life.

*Julie Nicholson*



## Third Space - some thoughts

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Julie wrote in the last magazine about the idea of a physical Third Space. It touched a chord with me as I was interested in how we have adapted during the past year.

Before last March, I worked mainly from home but did occasionally go in to college. I also travelled about for work on my bike or by car. So my First (home) and Second (work) Spaces were quite mixed together, and work was something that could happen anywhere I had my laptop.



At home I love having people round for meals or to stay and catching up with friends and family.

My Third Space was definitely the church building; I was there on Sundays for services and on Tuesday for Toddlers Group. I would pop in and collect things, check things with Julie, tidy cupboards and many other things in lunch hours, or when passing.

On a Tuesday I would like having a minute to sit in the empty Sanctuary away from the busyness of life.

That all stopped so suddenly and it was interesting that it hasn't been something that I have really missed. Yes, I would love to be back in church with everyone praising God, back to prayer breakfast in the Pillar Hall, to chatting and having fun with the children in Quest, seeing all the toddlers running around and Carers sharing life on a Tuesday morning. But while it has not been possible, I have not missed the building itself. I have been in when we had services and it was lovely (but odd with so few people, masks, no singing and no chatting) to be back.

What I miss is the people; it is great chatting on Church Online, Zoom and when I have met up outside with people, but it is not the same as everyone being together.

I often cycle past the church and thought I would feel a real pull to be in it, but I think that the reality is that lovely as the building is it is the people who make a Church. The building can be used to bring together God's people and the community.

How we do this as we move into a hopefully less restrictive phase of life is something to think about.

*Katharine Ellis*



## COP 26, and why it should matter to Christians

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The delayed United Nations Climate Change conference will take place in Glasgow in November. The things that are discussed at this series of meetings are some of the most important being discussed this year. So what has that got to do with us?

Climate change is the biggest crisis facing our generation. An alternative name is the Climate Crisis, for that is what it is. A crisis. What we do now affects all the people that come after us. And not only that, what we do now and what we have been doing is affecting people and situations all over the world – right now. Poverty and disease, what about those? Yes, it's the poor people of the world that are suffering now because of climate change. The poor always have fewer choices and are marginalised, being forced to live in the environmentally-degraded places that no-one else wants to inhabit, but that is being exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

As Christians we should be willing to speak up, and step out. To be voices for those who have no voice. As Micah 6:8 says 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' And can we really sit and look at what humanity is doing to the beautiful world around us and not weep? We need to ask God's forgiveness for what we have done. And sins of omission count as well. What didn't we do that we could have or should have? God has placed us here at this place at this time, and we need to seek his will in this matter along with everything else.

This is a massive issue, and I am hoping that a group of folk will be willing to journey with me through some Tearfund Bible study resources. Please see below.

### How to get involved

1. The Church of Scotland are asking for volunteers to help assist visitors coming for the conference. These are mainly in Glasgow, but they are also looking for some Edinburgh folk. <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/church-members-encouraged-to-take-part-in-cop26>
2. If you are aged between 18 and 30 you can apply to be part of the Christian Aid's Prophetic Activist scheme where you are supported and mentored to be part of transformative change. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/propheticactivist>
3. Tearfund have produced an escape room game for online group use. If this is something you would like to try with church folk or family and friends check out this link <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/crack-the-climatesilencer>

4. Tearfund have also produced a Bible study series focusing on the issues involved. Would you like to do this? If you want to take part in this 9 week study please contact the office [admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk](mailto:admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk).

## Christianity and climate change

A nine-part film series for small groups featuring Katharine Hayhoe, the internationally renowned Christian climate scientist.

*Julie Nicholson*

## Afternoon Fellowship

The Afternoon Fellowship have continued to meet monthly on Zoom, and will continue to do so for a few months yet. It's been great to catch up with people, with some of the group able to participate by telephone where no internet is available.

January saw the group become 'creative' to a certain extent as we split into groups to write our own poetry for Burns Day. If memory serves me right, we had versions of 'To a dog', 'To a donkey' and more. Lots of laughter and hilarity on the way.

February saw the group sharing two true things and one false, with everyone having to guess which one was false. We learned that David did actually have tea with the Queen Mother while on police duty at Castle May!

March made us think about 'would you rather...', with Elaine providing options which led to lots of discussion. God made us all different and our answers mirrored that on occasions.

Sadly, we still won't be able to meet safely before the summer so we will continue to have 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.

The 'April' meeting will be held on 30 March as it will be Holy Week and David will lead us in a reflection.

Meeting details will remain the same for each meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86588285454>

Meeting ID: 865 8828 5454

To phone in: Call **02030512874, Meeting ID 86588285454#**

**Dates for Meetings** (all Tuesday afternoon at 2pm)

- 30 Mar
- 4 May
- 1 June

All are welcome at these meetings.

## Book Review

***A London Sparrow*** by Phyllis Thompson

An inspiring and true story of Gladys Aylward.

This is a book to be read in Lent (and at any time).

Well-written, inspiring and illuminating, it traces the life and commitment of Gladys Aylward who was by worldly standards often a failure, but by God's standard a warrior.

Her ability to be single minded and totally committed to follow wherever God led her is a shining example of a 'transparent self' that let the Lord's light shine through.

Certainly she had her fair share of suffering, fear, worry and seeming failure. All that the world could give in the way of apparent rejection: failure, war and starvation....as our Lord Jesus experienced in taking on life on Earth. But as the Easter message says, God is in control and He is the one who turns seeming failure into glorious victory. A sympathetic biography. Christ is risen indeed.

This book is a good read.

*Elaine Dove*



## BV Creative group

Many of us are busy making items for a display at Easter. Starting on Palm Sunday, it will tell the Easter story on the railings outside the church. The full display will be completed on Easter Sunday. I hope that many of you will be able to see and enjoy it.

In February, the BV Creative Group held their first workshop via Zoom. We gathered to watch Lesley show us how to make paper flowers using paper, glue and paper clips. We watched a YouTube video and all had

a go at making the beautiful flowers. Since then, I have made some more and sent some to my mother and mother-in-law for Mother's Day. We hope to have more workshops in the future.

If you would like more information about the creative group, please email [creative@barclayviewforth.org.uk](mailto:creative@barclayviewforth.org.uk) or contact the church office.



*Anne McCulloch*



## 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 **in-person services** are expected to resume on 4 April. Further information will be in the weekly email, or contact the office.

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

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Rev. David Clarkson</b>	<b><u><a href="mailto:dclarkson@churchofscotland.org.uk">dclarkson@churchofscotland.org.uk</a></u></b>
Administrator	Julie Nicholson	<a href="mailto:admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk">admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk</a>
Pastoral Associate	Elaine Hogan	<a href="mailto:pastoral@barclayviewforth.org.uk">pastoral@barclayviewforth.org.uk</a>
Children & Families	Stefanie Conradt	<a href="mailto:children@barclayviewforth.org.uk">children@barclayviewforth.org.uk</a>
Development Worker		
Session Clerk	John Ritchie	<a href="mailto:sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk">sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Janet Darling	<a href="mailto:treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk">treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk</a>

### 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.