



Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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Power of Prayer

I have the privilege of meeting for prayer with other church leaders from across Edinburgh. It is good, and a bit challenging to meet with people whose passion for Jesus is so apparent. The reading we had today was from Daniel 9. Daniel has been reading the Scriptures and has concluded that Israel would spend 70 years in exile in Babylon. Verse 3 says: *"So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting and in sackcloth and ashes."*

What happens then is that this young man, who was probably just a child when he was taken captive, begins to repent on behalf of the people. He acknowledges their guilt and rebellion, that they ignored God, that they had been unfaithful and in verse 11, he says, *"Therefore the curses and sworn judgements written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we sinned against you."* Daniel then 'reminds' God of how he brought the people

from Egypt and established Jerusalem as his holy city, and ends his prayer with these stirring words (verses 17-19):

"Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favour on your desolate sanctuary. Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord,



hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

I wonder what would happen if God's people today did the same thing. We spent time this morning confessing those times when, as church leaders, we sinned by commission or omission. We asked for forgiveness for ourselves and the church and asked God to work in Edinburgh and beyond.

As Daniel finished praying, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and explained God's plan for his people (vs 24-27). These verses are difficult to understand. He's told not just about the end of the exile but of a much more significant event that is to come. There are to be 490 years during which several things are to be accomplished: putting an end to transgression and sin, atoning for wickedness, bringing in everlasting righteousness, fulfilling prophecy and anointing the most holy. Between the issuing of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (this happened in 457 BC when Artaxerxes sent Ezra back to Jerusalem; Ezra 7:11-26) and the arrival of the anointed one, there would be 'seven sevens' and 'sixty-two sevens', or 483 years. 483 years from 457 is 27AD, roughly when Jesus started his ministry. Daniel is also told that the anointed one will be put to death, and the temple will be destroyed. But before this explanation, Daniel is told that God answered as soon as he started to pray.

You might be asking where I'm going with this and if you've made it this far, well done. There are some important lessons here: First, God's people's genuine, heartfelt prayers are powerful. Prayer changes things. God responds to our prayers, but although Daniel got an instant explanation, it was to say, "Don't hold your breath. The full answer is going to take years." Sometimes our answers are not instant, but that doesn't mean we have not been heard. Second, repentance is vital. As individuals, we need to repent in order to get right with God. As a denomination, we need to repent in order to get right with God! The Israelites ignored God and thought they knew best, and they thought he would go on forgiving them and that there were no consequences for that. Daniel realised that they were suffering the

consequences, and although he had played no part in their disobedience, he repented on their behalf. While that is not a concept we might be familiar with, it happens several times in the bible, and we should take that seriously. I know we can point



to all sorts of reasons for the decline of our denomination, but I do wonder if lack of repentance plays its part.

Third, Daniel was serious about praying! He was in sackcloth and ashes and pleading with God to act. Our prayers are often relatively staid, even formulaic – we pray at the start and end of meetings, we pray in services, but sometimes it seems as if we do it to get it out of the way, and I know because I've done it. We, all of us, can learn to pray more effectively, and I want to encourage you in that. We pray each week at 7pm on Sunday evenings, and we have known answers to those prayers. We can always have more people. You don't need to speak out your prayers, but you'll be encouraged by hearing others, and they'll be encouraged by your presence – everyone benefits when God's people get together to pray.

Lastly, this section of Daniel reminds us that God has a plan even although we don't always see it. It was revealed to Daniel as he prayed, and I encourage you to pray that God will reveal what his plan for us is. We deal with instructions from the General Assembly and Presbytery, and we know that significant changes are coming; however, we believe that Jesus is head of the church and has a plan for us.

I have no idea what that will be, but I am so grateful to be part of a congregation that has people who care for and support each other. There is so much potential, so many talented and committed people. As things begin to open up again, I want to encourage you to think about coming to worship with us in the building. Of course, it is just a container for people, and you can participate online, but there is something special about being together. I know there are folk who are not ready yet, and that's OK; but if you've been thinking about it, why not book in for this week – it would be great to see you.

David Clarkson



Canary Craftivist Workshop: A Climate Campaign for Crafters

Where: Barclay Viewforth Church (in person).

When: Saturday 11 September 11am-1pm.

Who: Everyone interested in tackling the climate crisis.

How to attend: Email creative@barclayviewforth.org.uk

The Creative Group are hosting our second craftivism workshop (craftivism is gentle activism through crafts) and this time we'll be knitting, sewing and maybe even crocheting canaries to send to MP's, asking them to use their influence to make the world a cleaner and greener place through policy change and political action.

Experienced crafter or never done any crafting before, you are welcome!

More about the project:

'It's a crucial time for climate campaigning with the UN Climate Conference COP26 attended by world leaders being hosted by the UK Government. Carbon emissions need cutting drastically, and we need bolder action from politicians than ever before.'

The Craftivist Collective, the creators of the project, have 'helped change laws, policies, hearts and minds around the world with quiet, compassionate and visually attractive activism using handicrafts.' They have chosen canaries as these little birds were once used as a way to alert coal miners of the danger of toxic air in the mines.

If you're not a crafter, but would like to join us we'd love to buddy up our crafters with others interested in writing letters to help tackle the climate crisis. Let's create a community of people making a difference! The Craftivist Collective encourage us to wear yellow to the workshop if you can, but don't worry if you don't have anything yellow – it's just for fun.



Can't make it? No problem, email us for patterns or more information at

creative@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Or find patterns in the yellow box on the webpage in the link below:

<https://craftivist-collective.com/blog/2021/06/canarycraftivists/>

Katelynne Kirk

Blythwood Shoeboxes

If you receive the weekly email you will know that we are going to be a sorting centre for shoeboxes this November. **If you are not on the mailing list but would like to be up to date with all the goings on, please click the button at the bottom of the website home page and sign up!**

So, what's the plan?

- Friday 5 November 2-4pm we are a drop-off point for anyone to bring along shoeboxes.
- Sunday 7 November 'Shoebox Sunday' – congregation can drop off shoeboxes.
- Monday 8 to Friday 12 November – BV sorting centre. **(Please note that if you run a group which is using the Church/Pillar hall to meet, that this will not be possible during this week).**

There will be some differences to what happened last time!

As we don't know how COVID will be affecting our lives at the time we are erring on the side of caution, restricting the number of sorting tables and volunteers at any one time. Volunteers will also sign up for a 2-hour slot and arrive at the start of that slot, and hopefully stay for the duration of that slot. Once a slot has started you won't be able to join.

What about the boxes?

The sorting process will be simplified, and rummaging around for things to fill less full boxes won't be possible. That being said, each station will be for a certain category of box (e.g. teenage boy), and there will be some appropriate fillers available at each station. The most important part of the sort is making sure no 'illegal' items are in the boxes, and removing those.

Overseeing

As well as looking for volunteers to fill slots through the day, at the moment we are especially looking for one person for each day to act as an overseer. This person will be in charge of the day, answer questions and make sure folk get in and out of the building safely and brief the volunteers. This person does not need to be sorting shoeboxes all day, but is available for the majority of the time. Stations will need to be cleaned between volunteers and fillers re-stocked where possible. It's fine if you want to sit and read a book most of the time, or bring a laptop to do some work!

If you want to help with overseeing please get in touch with Julie now on admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk. We will advertise sorting slots nearer the time.



Meet Fiona Kennedy, our new OLM Probationer

Most, if not all, of you will have either seen me on screen or in person by the time you read this, but I thought I would write something a bit longer about myself as a way of introduction. I am training for the Ordained Local Ministry (OLM) and will be with you for a year as a Probationer.

August is a month of new beginnings I always think: school goes back, exam results are out and decisions might have to be made about college or university places. In our family, August is a month of birthdays – we have three in the same month! So again the start of another year really – another year older.

August seems like a good time of year to start at a new church as things are beginning to start up again, plans are being made, new COVID restrictions have to be read and understood – not an easy task!

As well as starting here at Barclay Viewforth, university starts up again. I am studying part-time with Highland Theological College in Dingwall. They are very well set-up for distance learning, which is really good. All the lectures are recorded which means I can watch them again if I need to or watch at a later time if needed.

A short bit of background about myself, in case you missed it before. I live in the Craiglockhart area of Edinburgh and am married to Gordon, who is the parish minister at Craiglockhart Church. We have two sons: John lives in Paisley, and Andrew who is married to Bonnie and who lives in Auchterarder. Before moving through to Edinburgh, we lived in Stranraer, New Cumnock and Glasgow.

This is still an uncertain time for us, and it is difficult to get you know you all – but thankfully we have Zoom! I hope that as this year progresses, I will be able to meet more of you in person and be able to participate in the various groups that are happening in the Church. I am looking forward to sharing this part of my journey with you and seeing what God has planned for the coming months for us all.



Fiona Kennedy

Congregational roll

Death

John Wilson

10 August 2021

Love God's Creation

In the run up to the COP26 – the UN Climate Change Summit in November – the Creative Group will be creating two pieces of art and we want to involve the whole congregation!

On Sunday, Anne asked everyone to draw around their hands onto paper. She also asked everyone to write messages about God's creation and the climate crisis on separate pieces of paper. So, what do we need them for?



Handprints – 'Art for the Planet' Project

All these handprints will be transferred onto fabric to create the leaves of a tree.

This tree will be sewn onto a banner one-metre-squared and we will submit it to the Art for the Planet project. Our banner will be combined with others from other communities and faith groups to become two HUGE banners which will hang on the towers of New College on the Mound, so they'll be visible from Princes Street, 'sending a message of your support for tackling the climate crisis to the COP26 conference.' More info: <https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/newcollegecop/banners/>

Messages – Barclay Viewforth Railings Display

In the run up to COP26 our railings will be covered with crafted leaves (some from endangered trees), plants, bees, flowers and other things relating to nature and the climate. We hope each week or two more items will be added to the display linked to that week's theme. To make this a truly congregational project, we plan to embroider *your* messages onto some of the leaves so that people passing by can see how much we care about God's world.

If you would like to be involved, please watch the service on our website on Sunday for more info and send your handprints and messages to the church or contact admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk to arrange a time when they can be handed in by the 5th of September.

If you'd like more information, please contact us at creative@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Thank you!

Anne McCulloch & BV Creative

Pilgrimage for COP26

‘All sites of pilgrimage have this in common: they are believed to be places where miracles once happened, still happen, and may happen again.’ Victor and Edith Turner

Do we believe Scotland can play a part in transforming our world for the better? In November, Scotland will be the focus of the world’s attention as we host the COP26 climate change summit. We need to pray for change, and we also need to be part of the change. Who fancies a wee walk?

A few committed folk are walking from Dunbar to Glasgow to in time for COP26, but folk are welcome to participate for one leg or even just part of a day. Can we as a church take part in this and join for a day? Although this is an interfaith event, Christians showing up and being part and joining fellow pilgrims to share our reasons for being there will be a witness to our love of the world that God created. Can we pray for a miracle and be part of a miracle?

17th October – 31st October 2021

A pilgrimage from Dunbar to Glasgow to reflect on the climate and ecological crisis in anticipation of [COP26](#). The pilgrimage includes a public engagement programme to accompany the walkers and encourage participation en route.

Participating organisations include Deep Time Walk Project, Interfaith Edinburgh, Glasgow and Scotland, John Muir’s Birthplace, North Light Arts, Scottish Dance Theatre, and more.

The route mostly follows the John Muir Way from Edinburgh to Kirkintilloch – with some deviations. From Kirkintilloch we follow St Ninian’s Way along the canal and into Glasgow.



- 17th – Dunbar Launch Event from 2pm
- 18th – Dunbar to N. Berwick
- 19th – N. Berwick to Aberlady Bay
- 20th – Aberlady Bay to Portobello/Edinburgh
- 21st – 24th – Edinburgh Way Station (various events)
- 25th – Edinburgh to S. Queensferry
- 26th – S. Queensferry to Bo'ness
- 27th – Bo'ness to Falkirk (via Grangemouth)
- 28th – Falkirk to Kirkintilloch
- 29th – Kirkintilloch to Glasgow
- 30th – 31st – Glasgow Welcome (various events)

A detailed program outlining the daily walks, timings, and themes to be explored will be made available by late August.

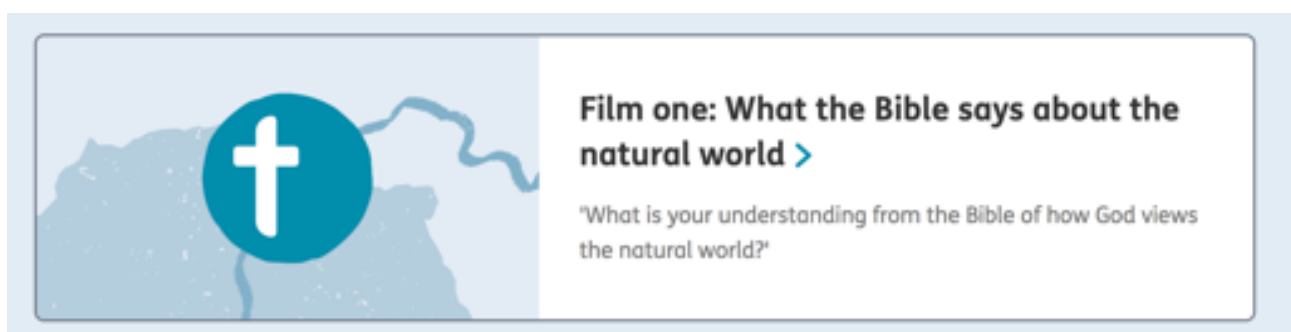
Please see <https://artandecology.earth/pilgrimage-for-cop26/> or contact Julie for more information admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Julie Nicholson

Christianity and climate change video Bible studies

At the prayer meeting on 22 August we looked at part one of the Tearfund resources for thinking about how we can respond to climate change as Christians. This was an introductory session, the first of nine videos. If you would like to discuss these issues and watch the videos together please contact Julie on admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk. If you want to watch them on your own or with your family you can find the resources here <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series>

Each film is only 6mins long and a good starting point for thinking about this important topic.



Football News

At the culmination of Barclay Viewforth's opening league match on Saturday 7 August Ian, Ally and Brad dejectedly tromped off the pitch following a 5-1 defeat. Thankfully these gentleman are Charlotte Chapel players and a week later, again at South Gyle, Barclay's reds performed even more spectacularly and overcame Bristo Church 8 (EIGHT) goals to nil with the goals being shared out among centre-forward Craig (3), centre-half Matt (2), midfielders Robbie and Steve, and left-back John L.



Barclay's best ever start to a ECFA league campaign had been presaged by strong performances in pre-season and an inaugural summer cup which was organised in the context of the long lay off following the Autumnal COVID-related abandonment of the 2020/21 season. In the summer competition, involving the vast majority of ECFA member clubs, Barclay Viewforth had reached the final, succumbing, in the manner of the England men's team, on penalties after the scores were one-a-piece after 90 minutes. It's also worth mentioning that Barclay's equaliser against St Mary's Cathedral through debutant Robbie was a screamer in stoppage time.

Much of the credit for the squad's success is probably down to manager/coach Dean McBride initiating early and intensive fitness training as soon as outdoor group sports were permitted to resume. Alongside these 'torture' sessions, double-length Saturday morning practices were set up at Seafield sports ground. These have now been replaced by Wednesday evening training and practice sessions at Portobello High school.

With such strong performances and results, morale and confidence within the squad are understandably high albeit there is a corresponding high level of competition for prized starting berths, particularly in midfield. Recent squad additions have intensified this situation although it is a challenge Dean and assistant coach Craig welcome as the push for the side's first ever ECFA silverware gets underway in earnest.

Matches continue to take place mainly at council-run sports facilities in and around Edinburgh on Saturday mornings (the usual KO time is 10am) . If interested in viewing a match spectators are always very welcome. Likewise training sessions can be accessed for those seeking higher-energy involvement. Do please speak to me in either case.

Your prayers for the ongoing direction of Barclay Viewforth's football set-up and the ECFA league would as ever be greatly appreciated.

Andrew Stephenson

Letter from the Editor

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens” writes the author of Ecclesiastes. There is a time to edit and a time to retire, and now it is time for me to retire.

I first took on the magazine as a way to learn more about what was happening in the church congregation and, hopefully, to better share that with all of you. It’s been fascinating to read about the different activities and events going on, and to hear the quiet feedback on how interesting and even moving the content has been.

Over the last eighteen months, I know that the magazine content has been an important part of keeping some of our oldest and most vulnerable members connected to our community, and I hope that as restrictions are now easing those of you who have benefited from that contact are able to meet safely with other church members and connect with the Sunday worship via phone or internet connections.

As for me, the last eighteen months have been a whirlwind of new skills (teaching online) and access to training that I never could imagined. It has also been an opportunity for me to reflect on my relationships with church and where God is calling me to serve. Although I have enjoyed working on the magazine, it is time to step back from this editor role to free me to take on other roles and responsibilities as we travel through this season of reimagining what it means to be church.

Thank you so much to all those who have sent in articles, nobbled others to send in articles, and shared their photos with the magazine.

Special thanks to Anna Nicholson and Daniel Gotts who have served as proofreaders over my tenure, those who came in to fold hundreds of copies each month prior to March 2020 and to the Ministry team who have facilitated the production of each magazine.

The future of the magazine remains uncertain, as no one has yet come forward to take over as editor. Please pray for Comms Team as they decide where to go from here.



Blessings to you all.

Emma Torry

Join our Sunday Service

You can join our worship in a range of ways:

- **In person** on a Sunday at 11am. Kingdom Kids is now also running for children ages 3-11. **Book** places by emailing the office before Thursday 12 noon. Spaces are also available on the day.
- Join us online live at 11am at **barclayviewforth.online.church**
- Catch up with the service later by going to **barclayviewforth.org.uk** for the latest videos
- Previous sermons can also be found on **barclayviewforth.org.uk/sermons**, via our podcast or borrowed on CD via the office
- You can also listen to a shortened service via Twillo by calling **0131 357 6007**.



If you would like to join the Sunday evening prayer meeting at 7pm on Zoom or the Bible Study on a Wednesday at 7pm, 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
OLM Probationer	Fiona Kennedy	olm@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Children & Families Development Worker	Stefanie Conrard	children@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Session Clerk	John Ritchie	sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Treasurer	Janet Darling	treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Contacting the Church



The ministry team are still working from home, but you can telephone the office on 0131 229 6810 and leave a message. Messages are being checked regularly.

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