



Link

June 2019

Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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Pastoral Letter

I am sitting here, looking out of the window and I am thinking about you. I wonder what questions you ponder about and what struggles you might face at the moment. What made you laugh and leap with joy these past few days? Which moments would you like to revisit, and which seasons would you have rather skipped perhaps? How has time shaped you?

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity.
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

True, this sounds like a quote that makes a good fridge magnet or a perfect slogan for a take-away coffee cup – *there is a time for everything*. However, in our world time seems to be the very treasure we seem to lack. Our teens and tweens feel the limits of time as they do their exams right now. Every day we are confronted with messages about being better, faster, more efficient; everything at once and more of everything that makes us greater and happier. We would rather go with the instant fix than taking time – be it in the growth of our food, the progress or our career, the healing of heartache or the development our spiritually and sometimes our church: 'Please God – but kind of **now**.'

I invite you, friend, to take a breath and think about the depth of this sentence: there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity. I can see this writer



observing his environment, his neighbour, parents with their children, people in suits running to the station, friends sitting together, and he concludes: there is a time for everything. There is a time for joy, laughter, hope and happiness. But there is also a time for crying, doubting and making mistakes – perhaps the same one over and over again. There is a time for not getting it right, a time for saying ‘I am sorry’ and burying the shame of another with three kind words ‘It is forgiven’. In it all there is the time for growth.

When I went on my pilgrimage, I had this time set aside to think about my future with God. It just seemed great and altogether right: God had two weeks to let me know where to head next. As it turned out, he did not just take his time to respond, but kindly reminded me that the timing of a calling still had to fit with his wider plan. However, it was kind of me to think of his agenda. I laugh now, thinking back. Here’s the thing I learned from this experience: the grass won’t grow faster by me pulling on it. I cannot rush things that need time. Nature needs its time and so do we. Time is essential in all we do, because the human heart, mind and soul cannot be rushed – we need time to grow. And we can decide as to how we encounter the time we have been gifted with. It might demand great patience, a sense of humour and compassion not just with others, but with yourself; knowing there is a time for everything.

How beautiful and humble that this one verse reminds us there *is* a time for it all and how on point Jesus’ kingdom parables appear in this perspective: there is a time to sow, to water, to reap. One might translate it as there being a time to listen, to pray, to speak and do. God knows that. Do we dare believe?

So, dear friend, whatever time you might face or find yourself in, let me end this letter in a quote, a hopeful word of encouragement, a prayer:

Give me the sense of humour,
The grace to understand a joke,
So that I know a little bliss in this life that I might share with others.

Stefanie Conradt

Congregational roll

Death

Stewart Smith

12 May



Unshakable Summer Challenge - "Travels with a t-shirt"

It's now been a few weeks since Easter and the big question is....what have you done with your Unshakable t-shirt which Sam gifted to us? We need you to dig these out for our summer challenge...

When you travel somewhere over the next few months (June-September) we'd like you to wear your t-shirt* and send us a photo entitled:

Unshakable in... or Unshakable at...



We'll share your photos in our services/magazine/social media (so by submitting the photo, you are giving us permission to do so) and there will be prizes awarded for the furthest travelled, and the most imaginative/creative photo.

Let's have fun showing that our "Faith, Hope and Love" are Unshakable in destinations in this country and beyond.

Please email your photos to admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk or hand in a photo to the church office.

*Let us know asap if you weren't here or didn't receive a t-shirt and we'll order some more.



The Staff Team

Anne and Ian McCulloch are already unshakable on Goat Fell, the highest mountain on Arran!

Called by His name

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

This verse from 2 Chronicles 7:14 popped into my head this morning. It's probably one of the better known verses in Chronicles, a book folk probably don't read too often. It is also one that can be relevant to a number of situations today. We might think about it regarding the chaos that surrounds the Brexit debate. We might think about it in relation to climate change. The Message translation says 'restore their land to health' which, when we are thinking about anthropogenic (human-caused) damage to our environment, gives an element of hope in all the doom and gloom, although we should never forget our own responsibilities to make the world a better place.

How about we think of it in terms of us as a church with our vacancy? We are indeed God's people, called by his name. But wicked ways? Can that be applied to us? Surely not! We're doing pretty well, aren't we? I think if we don't look at that in isolation, but as part of the sentence, then maybe we can get a clearer picture. We need to ask ourselves 'are we humbling ourselves before God?'; 'are we praying and seeking his face?'. These are things



we have to do both individually and corporately as we move forward. God is waiting to hear from us. God is waiting to forgive and heal. At this time we need to let God reign in our lives and in our church, and we need to be open to where he is going to lead us. Exciting times lie ahead!

Julie Nicholson

Kirk Session Conference - Saturday 8 June

Our annual Kirk Session Conference will be held in the Church/Pillar Hall on Saturday 8 June. This is an opportunity for Kirk Session – and anyone else who would like to join us for the day – to plan, discuss and strategise, and see where God wants to lead us in this time of vacancy.

09:30 Coffee and pastries

10:00 Official start

Lunch break – bring your own or go out and eat locally

15:00 Close

If you would like any more information, please speak to John Ritchie, our Session Clerk.

Afternoon Fellowship

Our meeting on 7 May followed a different format from usual, split as it was into two very different parts.

We began with a short talk by Fiona Kennedy, a long time church member. Fiona spoke about a very difficult period in her life. Emotional problems led to her having to give up work which in turn led to financial hardship. She was then diagnosed with having breast cancer and had to have a mastectomy. This was followed by chemo and radium therapy. She was still dealing with these problems when her elder brother died of cancer. With support from her doctor, friends both within and out-with Barclay Church, Connect Plus and perhaps most helpful of all, Artlink at the Royal Ed, Fiona got her life back on an even keel. Fiona has remained as a part of the Connect Plus team and also has retained links with Artlink, as she knows how important such organisations are.

Too often, people are reluctant to talk about emotional or mental health problems so we are very grateful to Fiona for coming to speak to us. Usually, Fiona takes part in the Forth Bridge Cross for Christian Aid, but this year she did her fundraising in London.

We then moved on to the second part of the programme – a Beetle Drive. Great fun was had by all.

We are now looking forward to our June Meeting when we will be enjoying our usual super Afternoon Tea on 11 June at 2pm. Put it in your diary now.

Lorna Gentleman

Hands up for Summer Sunday School

As you know, we have fantastic leaders taking care of our wonderful, chaotic bunch of children! During the summer, the leaders have a break from the formal programme – but we offer Summer Sunday School. This is for children age 3 to 10 and usually includes a short story-time, games and crafts. We are asking for your support in this. Perhaps this could be a time for you to try out something new. No worries if you are new to it – you would do it with someone who has done it before and you can be sure to spend an hour having fun. If you would like to sign up, please come and talk to Stefanie Conradt. Also, to help with the children you need to have a **PVG for children for the Church of Scotland** (free of charge).

The forms are available in the Pillar Hall and should be completed as soon as possible.

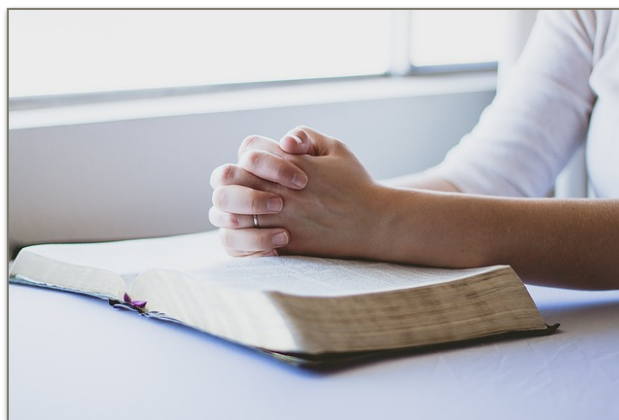


Stefanie + Team

Prayer @ Barclay Viewforth Church

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

How often in the daily hustle and bustle of life do we take time to slow down and just be at peace with God? Have you even considered reading a book on prayer? (Pete Greig’s book *How to Pray* is a great aid to both people coming to prayer for the first time or for seasoned prayer warriors.) God can use prayer to transform our lives. Not only can we enter a deeper relationship with Him, but we can also benefit from the fruits of answered prayer. Did you know that there are a number of ways to be involved in or receive prayer at BVC?



Monthly Prayer Breakfast

This takes place on the third Sunday of the month – the next one on Sunday 16 June at 9.30am in the Pillar Hall. Join us for croissants and coffee, and an opportunity to pray together for things on our heart and to take time to ‘listen’ to God.

Prayer Requests

As you leave the sanctuary, on the right hand side in the window alcove, there is a wooden box with the sign ‘Prayer Requests’. Beside the box there are some cards to enable you to write your request for prayer. The other side of the card has a sign-up for the online Prayer Circle (see below). The box is checked on a Sunday and the requests circulated to the people who have committed to pray as these requests come in. Please allow us to pray with and for you.

Online Prayer Circle

If you have a concern which pops up during the week and would value prayer, send us an email to prayer@barclayviewforth.org.uk. A group of people have signed-up and committed to pray for any requests which come in. They are also bound by the rules of confidentiality.

Prayer Ministry - we need your help

For a number of years, Prayer Ministry has been available after both morning and evening services. At the moment, members of the staff team are available – but we hope to re-establish teams of people to help with this (on a rota) in the coming weeks. To this end, an evening of training will be offered to people as an initial step – and if there is enough interest, we may run The Prayer Course after the summer.

If you would be interested in attending the initial evening, please contact Elaine Hogan (pastoral@barclayviewforth.org.uk) so that we can find a date which suits most people.



And finally....*(for now!)*

Thy Kingdom Come: a global wave of prayer – 30 May to 9 June 2019

This year, BVC has committed to being part of **Thy Kingdom Come**, where we will be praying for more people to come to know Jesus. Elaine has already mentioned in a couple of sermons in recent weeks the need for us to identify five people in our lives who have yet to come to faith. We need to commit to praying for them on a daily basis, starting on Thursday 30 May (Ascension).

On Pentecost Sunday – 9 June – everyone will be given something to help them to remember to pray for these people in the year ahead.

Join us as we seek to develop the prayer life of the church so that we can grow God's Kingdom here on earth.

Elaine Hogan

Vacancy News

Sam's induction as minister of Slateford Longstone Parish Church took place on Friday 17 May. He was well-supported by folk from Barclay Viewforth, and welcomed (along with the Manse family) at a social afterwards.

Rev Ian McDonald, minister of Holy Trinity Wester Hailes, is our interim moderator. He 'preached us vacant' on Sunday 19 May, with a very encouraging sermon on Jesus' parable of the mustard seed and the challenge that message is to us both individually as well as a church. (I'd encourage you to look it out on the website if you weren't there).

I'm pleased to say that Martin Pearce has agreed to be our locum over the vacancy. Martin is a Church of Scotland Reader and has worked in this role with a number of other congregations in Edinburgh, so comes with a lot of experience and practical knowledge. His first morning service will be on Sunday 16 June.

And finally, Kirk Session plan to meet the Presbytery Vacancy Advisory Committee during June, which will allow us to move forward with the formal process mentioned in last month's magazine.

John Ritchie

Kitchen notes: rock buns

When I was last on morning teas, I was asked if I had made rock buns. I had to admit I hadn't – it was a batch of Muesli cookies which are similar, but not the same. This conversation took me back to my childhood and to the school father-and-child baking competition where a builder and his son had made ROCK buns using cement and stones, then baked them in the oven! I promise the recipe below is more edible and less likely to break your teeth than those.

This is a really nice recipe to make with children – it's all about getting sticky fingers and making a bit of a mess.

- 8oz self-raising flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 4oz margarine
- 2oz sugar
- 4oz mixed dried fruit
- 2oz currants
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp milk



1. Mix together the flour and baking powder, then rub in the margarine
2. Stir in the sugar and fruit
3. Add the egg and milk to make a stiff mixture (you might need a wee drop more milk)
4. Use two teaspoons to put the mixture onto a greased baking tray
5. Bake for 15 minutes at 200C (GM6)
6. Cool on a wire rack

Linda Garside

Flower rota

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

	Donated by	Arranged by	Delivered by
2	Betty Skinner	Isobel Anderson	Elaine Rumney
9	E Fabian	Irene Hall	John Coull
16	Janette Niven	Sue Hindle	Elaine Dove
23	TBC	TBC	Ray Torrance
30	Elaine Dove	TBC	Elaine Hogan

Walking Together – Reflective Walks for All Ages

Walking Together was the theme of the 2018-19 Moderator, the Very Rev Susan Brown – and General Assembly has been encouraging churches to get involved in different types of pilgrimage.



What opportunities might there be to walk with a group from your church? Can you create a time to walk, talk and pray? Reflective walks can be a meaningful way for people to connect with God, creation and each other. They can be done alone or in a group; with church regulars or those with no church connection; and in either a rural or urban setting.

Walking Together cards have been produced to encourage conversation and reflection with people of different generations. These have proved very popular and have already been used by Boys and Girls Brigade groups, Guild groups and church groups of different ages. The cards focus on a theme such as a view, a stone, food or water – and provide walkers with prompts for something to think about, something to do and something to talk about.

Free sets of cards and a leaders' guide can be downloaded or ordered from the Resourcing Mission shop: <https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/shop>

In Your paths, Lord Jesus,
We walk, our hands in Yours
As You lead us forward
In step
Together
Open to You
And Your world
For Your sake

Very Rev Susan Brown



There are countless definitions and interpretations of pilgrimage. A new page on the Resourcing Mission website signposts just a few of these different approaches: <https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/mission/pilgrimage>

Mission and Discipleship Council

INVESTING FOR GOOD

HOW CAN I USE MY MONEY FOR A
POSITIVE IMPACT, WHILE TARGETING
A FINANCIAL RETURN?

FREE DRINKS RECEPTION
EDINBURGH
19TH JUNE 5:30



Are you looking at ways you can help tackle some of the biggest challenges facing society today?

Are you thinking about saving and investing to protect people and the planet?

Are you struggling to know where to start and how to get involved?

You are invited to attend this FREE event in Edinburgh on 19 June at 5.30pm being held at the Grassmarket Community Project, where you can meet ethical investing experts and ask any questions you might have.

Book online: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/investing-for-good-how-can-i-use-my-money-for-a-positive-impact-tickets-60743811375>

National Prayer Breakfast for Scotland

This year's National Prayer Breakfast takes place at 7am on Wednesday 12 June at Prestonfield House in Edinburgh. The theme is 'Reconciliation', which is very timely, given what has happened both to Scotland and the UK since the 2014 and 2016 referenda.

There are still a few places available and you can book in at [their website](#).

If you are not able to attend, you can still take part at one of the live-stream locations around the nation. If there is not one near you, encourage your church and other churches nearby to host a live streaming event – for more details, check out the NPBS website.

Our vision is to see a live stream event in each of Scotland's 32 Council areas – the nation linked in prayer by way of the internet! In 2018 there were 15 locations – will you help to increase that number in 2019?

Looking for the Kingdom of God

With two children under three, I hardly have time to breathe. Managing to spend more than ten minutes in the shower can seem like the height of luxury!

Unsurprising then, that my anxious thoughts start to run at just the same speed. From worrying about keeping up with the laundry to fears of untimely death, the mental load of family life can mean I don't take the time to live. To see God, and to seek his Kingdom seems an impossibility.

Now that my younger daughter is starting to settle into something of a routine, I have started to claim back a few minutes a day to stop.

I need to give my brain a rest. To quiet my soul. To sit with Jesus.

For me, this takes the form of what can be called mindfulness, meditation or centring prayer. I mostly think of it just as breathing.

Breathe in. Breathe out.

Ruach is a Hebrew word that is used in the Bible to mean both breath and Spirit. The Holy Spirit. God is breath.

Spirit in. Spirit out.

God in. God out.

Somewhere, in this messy attempt to still my body, quiet my mind and calm my soul, something happens. I start to see the world a little differently. The anxieties are still there, but so is something else.

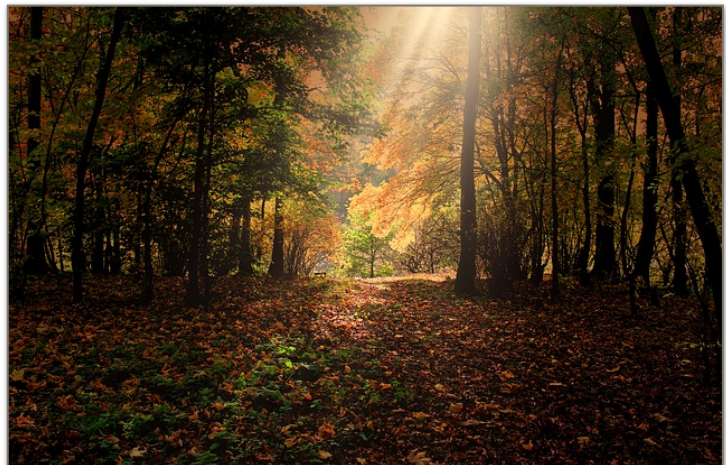
Something small. A mustard seed or a pearl, perhaps.

Instead of feeling like God is absent, I have begun to see his Kingdom. The small signs of God's goodness and love. A giggle, a smile, a good book, a kind word, a hot cuppa, a moment of peace.

So is the Kingdom of God no where? Or is it now here?

I believe the Kingdom of God is breaking through all over. We just need to stop and look.

Emma Torry



Faith that climbs mountains

With the end of my thirteen years in full-time education fast approaching, I am beginning to turn my attention to the coming year. Before starting a degree in geophysics, I will be taking a gap year in which I will spend five months in Oxford, New Zealand with Youth With a Mission (YWAM) at a Discipleship Training School (DTS).



YWAM aims to 'know God and make Him known.' The first three months of the DTS (the 'lecture phase') are focused on knowing God, with talks, Bible study and evangelism training. The 'outreach phase' in the last two months puts this into practice by making God known through outreach in community. The DTS I will be attending is specifically for climbers;

we will climb regularly during the lecture phase and the outreach will be within the climbing community. This could take us as far as India, Thailand or Laos – wherever the climbing is best!

I decided to apply for a DTS because I want to challenge myself and grow deeper in my relationship with God. The combination of theoretical learning and practical experience also particularly appealed to me. I am looking forward to learning more about God and sharing this with other people, as well as finding out more of what He has planned for my life.

To raise money to fund my place on the DTS, I am holding a concert on Friday 14 June at 7pm in the main sanctuary. This will feature some of the many musical talents the church has been blessed with, including Emma Torry and Michael Bonaventure, and I will also be sharing more about the DTS and what it will involve. Entrance is free, but donations will of course be welcome. I have also set up a Just Giving page on which you can donate if you would like to do so – the link can be found below.

I would like to thank the church family for helping me grow into the person I am, and for supporting me in the transition to this next, exciting stage of my life.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/climbers-dts>

Heather Tweedie

Useful information

Minister

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

Ministry Team

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

Officers

Session Clerk	John Ritchie	sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Treasurer	Janet Darling	treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Roll Keeper	Helen Miller	rollkeeper@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Church Officer	Chris Hogan	
Webmaster	Mike Ellis	webmaster@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Music

Organist/Choirmaster Andrew Robertson
 Organist Michael Bonaventure
 Worship Band Leader Anna Nicholson

Missional communities(*), groups and teams

Afternoon Fellowship	Jean Macaulay
Blessing*	<i>Contact the church office</i>
Connect Plus*	Elaine Rumney, Chris Hogan
Football	Andrew Stephenson
Meals for Mums	Linda Garside, Katy Gray
TCP*	Elaine Hogan, Helen Wolpert
The Net*	Alison Edmondson, Kirsteen Milne, Andrew Paterson
Toddlers	Katharine Ellis

For enquiries by telephone, 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 or the church office. Articles should be 400 words or fewer.

Content for the **July/August** issue must be submitted by 5pm on **Tuesday 18 June**.

Emma Torry, Editor



Sat	1		Meadows Festival	<i>Meadows</i>
Sat	8	09:30	Kirk Session Conference	Pillar Hall
Tues	11	14:00	RESCHEDULED: Afternoon Fellowship Tea	Pillar Hall
Thu	13	10:30	Knit 2 Together	Pillar Hall
Thu	13	19:00	Choir	Pillar Hall
Fri	14	19:00	Concert for Heather Tweedie	Sanctuary
Sun	16	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Pillar Hall
Mon	17	19:30	Presbytery Vacancy Advisory Committee meeting	Pillar Hall
Tues	18	17:00	July/August Magazine Deadline	
Tues	18	19:00	Connect Plus	
Wed	19	19:30	Knit 2 Together	
Thu	20	08:30	Sing Scotland Conference	<i>Charlotte Chapel</i>
Thu	20	19:00	Sing Scotland Concert	<i>Usher Hall</i>
Sun	23	11:00	Kids Service, Quest presentations	Sanctuary
Mon	24	19:00	Pastoral Assistants meeting	Pillar Hall
Thu	27	19:00	Choir	Sanctuary
Sun	30		Gillespie Crescent service	Gillespie Crescent
Sun	30	11:00	Communion	Sanctuary
Sun	30		Kids picnic (during the service)	Meadows/Links

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



Tues	2	10:00	No toddlers
Tues	2	19:00	Connect summer BBQ
Tues	9	10:00	No toddlers

Meadows/Links

Summer reminders

- There will be **no evening services** for the month of July. You can join BVC members at various other churches.
- Quest and Next take a break, but there will be **Summer Sunday club** for our younger members throughout July and August.
- **Creche** continues to run through the summer as normal

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.





Fiona Kennedy at Afternoon Fellowship



TCP Shopkeepers



Farewell to Nikki



Sam's introduction to Slateford

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

