



Link

February 2018



Making known God's Love in Jesus Christ

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Farewell to the Famous Five

Pastoral Letter

perseverance

pə:'sɪ'vɪə(ə)nəs/

noun: **perseverance**

- 1 persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.

February has dawned - hopefully that means that spring is just around the corner...and we've managed to survive January! It's almost as though we have to persevere through the post-Christmas blues of dwindling bank balances, tight waistlines and whatever the weather has to throw at us, not to mention the flu virus which seems to have been causing some problems for a number of people. Although things seem difficult at times our goal is to make it through to the end of every day, despite the difficulties which may come our way.



This is essentially the challenge of the Christian faith too, to persevere and persist in standing up for our loving God, despite times of trial and tribulation. There may be days when we can't see God in the midst of our difficulties, but we shouldn't ever give up. Just because we can't see God, He can see us and will be there to pick us up when we reach out to Him. In the epistle written by James we read:

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. (James 1:2-3)

I'm sure that many of us over the years will have faced many trials and, now that we're through them, can look back and realise that faith has been the thing that has given us the strength to keep going, to persevere. At times we may not have welcomed the testing of our faith, but ultimately, and I have to confess that it's far easier to do this with hindsight, we can see that God uses these trials to help us to grow. As Christians, we know that life is not going to be easy, but we also know that Christ will take these challenges to mould us and shape us into who He would have us be.

Stop for a moment. Think back.

Where have the trials been in your life?

Where was God in the midst of them? God was there, you may not have seen Him at the time, but when we suffer, God suffers with us.

If you are in the midst of a trial at this time because of health issues, bereavement, job situation, etc. hold on, keep persevering. You are not alone, even though you might feel it at times. Jesus said; *"And surely I am with you always..."*. Focus on the light of His love for you as you face each challenge.

During February the theme for the month will be **perseverance** - we'll be sharing stories of well-known people of faith who have faced trials and been tested in their faith, but we're also hoping that a few of you may feel challenged to share your stories with us, either during the service in person, or as a recorded interview. Please let us know if you would be willing to do this. Some of you may even want to share a verse of scripture which has helped and inspired you at these times. If God has spoken to you during a trial, perhaps He is encouraging you to share it now so that others may be encouraged to persevere. We would love to hear from you.

In the meantime, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Elaine Hogan

P.S. Coincidentally, as I write this, my daily bible reading for today talks about how God uses suffering to transform you. (See Bible in one Year - BIOY featured in the Dec/Jan issue of Link)

The End of an Era - Goodbye to Seòras and Iain

December saw us bid farewell to two dear friends, leaders and members of our congregation.

Iain's role as Mission Facilitator has come to an end, and he is going on to a 'portfolio career' with a range of new ventures.

Seòras passed his probation and has now been inducted as minister for Bellie & Speymouth in Fochabers



Iain's last kids talk



Do you have prayer power?



An Imperial Tradition



Gifts of appreciation



Sharing our thanks



Moray's musical tribute

Friends International - A Thank You

Thank you for your gifts over the last three years for Friends International's Edinburgh International Outreach. EIO is a key ministry in our vision to see international students transformed by the Good News of Jesus so that they fully engage with the mission of the church in the world. Every July, hundreds of students from all over the world come to Edinburgh to learn English. Many have never met a Christian. In the EIO evening café, a team of young Christians welcome them and provide them with a home from home. In the afternoons trips continue the interaction informally. Along the way, Jesus is shared in conversation, using drama and in evangelistic Bible study. For the team members, it's an opportunity to see God at work, to grow their faith and learn skills in relating across cultures and sharing their faith. Barclay Viewforth gifts have been used to fund the staff time required to organise and run EIO over the last three years (approx. 25% of the total funds required). During that time: hundreds of international students have been blessed by contact with Christians; 76 team members have participated and we hear of ongoing involvement; 9 team members came from a student Christian group in Paris and returned to run similar outreach activities there; and Christian international students have experienced cross-cultural mission for the first time.

International student ministry continues through the year and Friends International seeks to work with the church to see international students blessed and their lives transformed. The Wee World Café runs each Monday evening during term time with a team of Christians from Edinburgh churches. Individuals and families provide hospitality in their homes. Free informal English classes help those who need some extra help. There's a group for international student families. The International Bake Off is a fun way to learn about baking around the world. There are trips around Scotland and the Philip Project provides training in how to teach the Bible for Christian international students before they go home.

There are about 17,700 international students at Edinburgh's four universities (not to mention those at Edinburgh College and the language schools) and we are only scratching the surface. Most international students return home never having been in a Scottish home. The only feasible way to make more of the opportunity we are privileged to have, is if more churches and individuals get involved. If you are interested, please do get in touch – www.friendsinternational.uk/get-involved – not least we are recruiting team members and looking for help to run EIO 2018.

Thank you again for your partnership.

Pete Edwards, Regional Development Director Scotland



Redwoods Caring Foundation - A Thank You

Firstly, thank you for your hugely generous gift of £7,500 over 3 years. In times of social care cuts, your gift has made a significant difference to the lives of the people we support. As a Christian charity supporting adults with learning disabilities, our vision is to demonstrate God's heart of love, and enable the people He entrusts into our care, experience life in its fullness - your support has helped us do this.

Up until December 2017 your funding has enabled us to

Purchase a new car for our Ash Lea unit. We receive no statutory funding for vehicles, but without vehicles many of the people we support would become housebound. The five wonderful people, for whom Ash Lea is home, will now continue to get out and about, and enjoy many of the same things in life that you and I enjoy.

Upgrade the physical environment of Telfie Central.

You may be surprised to know that many adults with learning disabilities suffer from isolation & loneliness. To combat this, Telfie (our day service) is built around community, relationships and creating a sense of belonging.



At Telfie approximately 16 men and women enjoy a variety of community activities built around their interests – these include trips out, working in our allotment, art & crafts, helping others, staying active and cooking (there are many more). We are very aware that the physical environment is critical to helping vulnerable people feel welcome, accepted, valued and loved. Your support has enabled us to enhance the décor of the centre – whereby showing people they are valued and loved.

Music Therapy - highly valued, this service enables people with learning disabilities to express and communicate their feelings – many of the people we support have limited finance and your support has enabled us to subsidise costs and thereby remove barriers to accessing the service. Through the expertise of our qualified music therapist, more people are enjoying the inner healing this service brings.

Going forward, we plan to use the last instalment to continue to upgrade the décor at Telfie and to introduce a brand new project – The Telfie Library. With a full range of wholesome DVD's, the people we support will develop catalogues and serve as librarians – opening the library out to the people we support will enhance relationships, community, a sense of belonging and promote healthy viewing. **THANK YOU**



Gavin Lawson, Operations Manager

Football Update - A Last-Gasp Draw

Barclay Viewforth's first match of 2018, played against Charlotte Chapel at Saughton 4G, was delayed by 40 minutes due to a player suffering a head injury in the previous game. Thankfully, the player was able to walk off the pitch when the ambulance arrived.

A pre-match tribute was paid to the late Brian Latto, an affectionately-remembered former ECFA secretary and head referee, which concluded with a minute's applause by the two sides gathered in a circle.

Barely ten minutes into the match, a Murdo high-ball glided through to centre forward Billy who neatly nodded past the stranded Charlotte Chapel keeper, Ally (1:0). Although BV almost made it two, the Chapel created the lion's share of chances for the remainder of the first half with their number 9, Iain Mc, shooting narrowly wide twice in short succession. On the left, CC's winger, Kyle, produced a searing run near the edge of the 18-yard box and flashed a fine shot, saved by the BV keeper. CC's tallest player then nodded in for an equaliser from an indirect free kick. The Chapel attack continued against a determined, but creaking Barclay defence until the interval (1:1).

Despite BVU coach Chris Whelan imploring the team to push up, the second-half was probably still being dominated by Chapel until the third goal. Left wide mid Cammy Torrens uncharacteristically scuffed a high ball to Billy, which fell short in the outer reaches of the 18-yard box. Ever hard driving, number 9 went for it full throttle and, although moving away from the goal, was deservedly rewarded when Ally, racing from his six yard box, carelessly decked him. Referee Mike Egan pointed to the spot and Ally C calmly placed the ball to the chastened keeper's left (2:1).

The remainder of the contest was, in Mike Egan's immediate post-match description, 'a zinger' with chances created and spurned at both ends. While again carving out more opportunities, Chapel's first half dominance and efficiency was much less in evidence. Dean McBride performed solidly in the centre of the BV defence with John and Ash on either side of him, all keeping shots at reasonable distances. Tim made some saves while a number of efforts whizzed well over his crossbar.

Barclay chances for a potentially-decisive two goal cushion fell to Ib, Murdo and Billy among others – all giving CC problems in the final third. Through the final 15 minutes, however, the script was primarily one of whether BV could hold on as Chapel struck the crossbar with a direct free kick and had a breakthrough chalked off for offside. With BV's supporters and substitute contingent, not least Sam Torrens, willing the final whistle to blow it finally did, but not before Chapel centre half, Scott, had nodded a header over Tim into the net with the last touch of the game – 2:2 the final score.

Upcoming fixture dates are in the calendar (supporters always welcome) and training continues on **Wednesday evenings**. Contact Andrew Stephenson for more details.

Andrew Stephenson

Kitchen Notes - Victoria Sandwich

Cake, very few people don't like cake. We can be picky about what type of cake we want – some people love fruit cake while others can't stand it, but most people have their favourite (fruit, lemon drizzle, Swiss roll, chocolate...). A Victoria Sandwich is often considered dull and boring – although it disappears incredibly quickly after the evening services. I find this the most versatile of all the cake recipes I have made – you can add a variety of flavours to it; and it works as a square, round or loaf-shaped cake. It is reliable and relatively easy to make – especially if you use the one-step method. It scales up for larger cakes successfully, and is the basis for most of the birthday cakes I make.



- 100g (4oz) margarine
- 100g (4oz) sugar
- 100g (4oz) self-raising flour
- 2 eggs (at room temperature – the cake won't rise as well if they are cold from the fridge)

1. Heat oven to 180°C, GM 4. Grease an 18cm (7-inch) cake tin.
2. Place all the ingredients into a large mixing bowl and beat with an electric mixer until light and creamy
3. Place in prepared tin and bake for 40-45 minutes.
4. When cool, slice in half and fill with jam or cream. Dust with icing sugar.

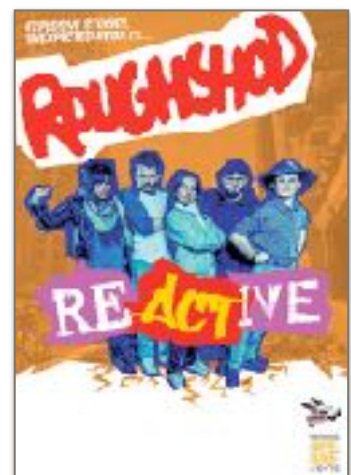
Linda Garside

Riding Lights Roughshod

Barclay Viewforth is hosting Riding Lights Theatre Company for one night only! The tour of Reactive is visiting prisons and churches in Scotland, and will be appearing at BVC on 28 April.

We have been asked to arrange accommodation for the performers, so if you can offer a spare bed for that week, please contact the church office.

More information about tickets for the performance will appear in next month's magazine.



BVC Goes North for Seòras' Ordination and Induction

Despite the snow, a good number of BVC folks made it all the way to Fochabers (map, right for those who are still not sure where that is...) to support our former probationer Seòras as he was ordained and inducted as minister for Bellie and Speymouth Church on 19 January.



Alongside a selection of the photos from the weekend is some of the text of the induction service – the charge to the minister and the charge to the congregation.



The Charge to the Minister

We, your brothers and sisters of the Presbytery of _____, rejoice with you that through the love and mercy of God you have been called to minister in this place.

I now charge you in the name of the Church to seek to be worthy of your calling. With a humble spirit and grateful heart, work for the building up of the body of Christ. Together with the people to whom you are bound, share in the

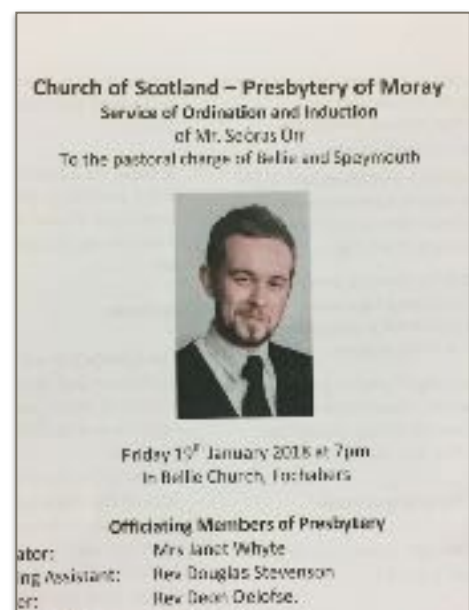
ministry of the reconciliation of all things in Christ Jesus.

Care for the people in your charge. As you exercise your own gifts, encourage them to seek out and to use their own particular gifts. As you pray continually for them, gratefully receive the love and strength they also offer you.

Seek to exhort and teach as one who is also under the authority of the Word of God.

Through sermon and sacrament, bring God's people to maturity of faith, and send them out to live and serve the Lord, strong in the Spirit, to the glory of God the Father. Reach out to those who have not yet come to faith; honour what is worthy in their lives, love them as God's scattered children; and seek to bring them safely home.

Do not neglect the gift you have been given. Be a faithful student of the Holy Scriptures, that what you read you may believe, what you believe you



may teach, and what you teach you may practise. Pray with perseverance; renew your mind; refresh your body; open your eyes to be filled with the fullness of God. Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)



The Charge to the Congregation

Today a new ministry has begun, not simply of the one who has made these solemn vows, but of you also who are members of Christ in this place. You have been baptised into Christ. Each of you has received gifts by which you may share in the ministry of the Church. Renew these gifts by their exercise in Christ's ministry to the world, and as you use them in the building up of the body of Christ in love, unity, and peace. Gather in the house of God, minister and people together. Wait expectantly for the living Word. Seek in the sacraments the presence of Christ among you. Make an offering of what you have and are; and receive the blessing of God.

As you welcome your new minister, make this community of Christ a place of true welcome for those who seek or for those who are in need of any kind. Find ways of making the Word declared in worship known publicly through what you say and do. Uphold and encourage your minister with your friendship and your prayers, asking for him/her and for yourselves that the Holy Spirit may be poured out richly upon you, that you may both know and do the will of God.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:5-6)

Prayers

Almighty God, at Easter the sight of the risen Lord filled the disciples with wonder and peace. As we walk with you, give us a sure knowledge of Christ's presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life so that we may serve you in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Lent - A Time for Reflection

Lent has traditionally been a period of fasting, when Christians of many different traditions take time to focus on God through giving things up or taking on new faith practices. Here are 40 ideas that might inspire you to deepen your faith this year.

10 Things to Fast From

1. Hot drinks, sweet drinks or caffeine
2. Using your phone one day a week or one hour a day
3. Binge-watching TV shows
4. Complaining, moaning or criticising something that really frustrates you
5. Sleeping-in, or going to bed late
6. Driving when you can walk or use public transport
7. Using your debit card - pay for everything in cash
8. Plastic waste. Bring a cup, refuse straws, pack your own lunch
9. Background noise - turn off the TV, radio, music etc and embrace the silence
10. Or be traditional and go vegetarian or vegan

10 Things to Take On

1. Daily pattern of prayer such as the Northumbria Community Celtic Daily Prayer
2. Lent devotional study such as BRF Lent book 2018 *Towards Jerusalem*
3. Pray daily for the persecuted church
4. Memorise 40 bible verses
5. Download a *Praying in Color* Lent template to colour-in every day
6. Learn a new hymn or song each week and sing it every day
7. Write down three things you are thankful for every day
8. Pray outside for ten minutes, even if it's raining
9. Incorporate purple (the colour of lent) into your home, office or clothes
10. Take one or more mini-pilgrimages to visit a church or holy site

10 Things to do as a Family

1. Eat fish on Friday, or have Meatless Mondays, or both!
2. Make an Easter Tree
3. Set aside time for creativity every day
4. Complement each other over dinner every day
5. Make your own bread together
6. Add a dried bean to a jar each time someone does a good deed. Swap for jelly beans on Easter Sunday
7. Cut out paper people, colour in each day as a different person to pray for
8. Collect a specific coin (e.g. a 50p or all 2016 dates) to donate to charity
9. Make and use a Way of Light - a spiral candle holder for forty candles
10. Build an Easter Garden, adding to it throughout Lent, and Holy Week

10 Things to Change the World

1. Donate an item to the basics bank every day
2. Match the cost of a little luxury you buy like coffee and donate the value to a charity
3. Sign up for *40 Acts*
4. Donate 40 items to charity
5. Read only books by non-white, female, non-western or LGBTQ authors
6. Read a news article every day by an author with a very different political view point to you
7. Say hello to someone you'd normally avoid or you don't know every day
8. Write to an MP or MSP about an issue that matters to you each week
9. Eat nothing but porridge for one day a week, like many families do
10. Or even try to live on just \$2 a day

Stepping Stones - Bereavement Support Training



We all know of people who have experienced (or have experienced ourselves) the loss of loved ones. For many people, this can be devastating and/or life-altering. Some people turn to the church for help and support to cope in these difficult times.

After a training evening and further conversations with Rev Tom Gordon (a former Viewforth minister, experienced hospice chaplain and writer on the subject) we, as a church, would like to become better-equipped to help people on this journey. To this end, Tom will facilitate Bereavement Training for us on the following dates:

- February 20
- February 27
- March 6
- March 20

The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings in the Lauriston Room (in the Church Centre) from 19:00-21:00. Participants need to attend all the sessions (if you have a particular problem with one of the dates, please let me know). **Please note that you are signing up for the training only at this stage, and nothing beyond that.** Further discussions will follow-on after training has been completed. Eventually we would hope to have a team (or 2) who will help to offer a Bereavement Support programme for 6 weeks. This would be accessible for church and community.

If you would be interested in attending the training, please speak to (or email) Elaine Hogan as soon as possible so that we can ensure that we have sufficient resources for the start of the course. If you're unsure if this is for you, please still get in touch to discuss further.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Elaine Hogan



Everyone Loves a Good Cuppa...

There's nothing so British as a cup of tea or coffee to bring people together.

Alas, tea-making robots are still a sci-fi dream, so **we need you to help** our church family get to know each other.

Simply check your diary, and then put your name in one of the slots to make the tea after a morning or evening service.

Just arrive ten minutes early to set up, and then leave in the last song to fill the teapot and switch on the coffee. Then, it's serving and washing up.

Helping out with tea and coffee requires no special skills, and no long-term commitment. If you can handle hot water safely, you can do it.

What are you waiting for?

Prophecy Course

Over the last 6 months, we've been looking at how we might develop a closer relationship with God, particularly around listening to what God has to say to us as individuals. Some people have been aware of God talking to them during the times of silence in the services (or at other times when they've been praying) through pictures or words of scripture. A few have even talked about these experiences in our services.

If you would like to explore this area further, we'd like to invite you to join us (along with members from other churches) for a Prophecy Course starting on **Saturday 24 February**. Other dates are 31 March, 28 April and 19 May, with the training days being hosted by various churches.

To register your interest or for more information, please speak to Elaine Hogan.

Thank you from the Basics Bank

Thank you to BVC for your kind contributions to the Basics Bank at BEC.

Our clients are always most grateful and are often surprised at how thoughtful the local churches are and what a variety of different foods and toiletries we are able to give them.

As a team, we really appreciate your partnering with us in this valuable work. Would you please pass on to your congregation our thanks for their continuing contribution to our Basics Bank.

The Basics Bank Team at BEC

Useful Information

Minister

Rev. Sam Torrens

minister@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Ministry Team

Administrator

Julie Nicholson

admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Pastoral Associate

Elaine Hogan

pastoral@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Officers

Session Clerk

John Ritchie

sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk

☎ 558 1381

Clerk to the Board

Katharine Ellis

boardclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk

☎ 228 4136

Assistant Clerk

Christine Wight

☎ 447 5498

Treasurer

Janet Darling

treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk

☎ 447 1578

Roll Keeper

Helen Miller

rollkeeper@barclayviewforth.org.uk

☎ 449 4470

Church Officer

Chris Hogan

Webmaster

Mike Ellis

webmaster@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Music

Organist/Choirmaster

Andrew Robertson

robbo2372@btinternet.com

Organist

Michael Bonaventure

Worship Band Leader Anna Nicholson

Missional Communities(*), Groups & Teams

Afternoon Fellowship

Jean Macaulay

Blessing*

[TBC]

Celebrate Recovery*

Sam Torrens

Connect Plus*

Elaine Rumney

Football

Andrew Stephenson, Sam Torrens

Meals for Mums

Linda Garside, Katy Gray

TCP*

Elaine Hogan

The Net*

Alison Edmondson, Kirsteen Milne, Andrew Paterson

Toddlers

Katharine Ellis

All telephone numbers are Edinburgh (0131) area code, unless otherwise stated. If no telephone number is displayed, please call the church office on 0131 229 6810

Contribute to the Magazine

Link relies on people like you to fill our pages each month. Please send us articles, pictures, poems, artwork, recommendations, upcoming events and important notices!

You can submit content by email to magazine@barclayviewforth.org.uk, or hand in a hard copy to the editor (Sunday mornings) or the church office. Articles should preferably be 400 words or less, or slightly less than one A4 page at 14pt.

Content for the **March** issue must be submitted by 17:00 on **Tuesday 20 February**.

Emma Torry, Editor



Mon	5	19:00	Kirk Session	Sanctuary
Tues	6	14:00	Afternoon Fellowship - Walking the St Magnus Way (Orcadian Adventures)	Pillar Hall
Thur	8	19:00	Choir Practice	Pillar Hall
Sat	10	10:00	Football: BVU v. Ladywell Baptist	[Ask Team]
Sat	10	Day	Vocations Information Day Book at: tomorrowscalling.org	Coatbridge
Tues	13		No Toddlers	
Wed	14		<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	
Sat	17	10:00	Football: BVU v. Port Seaton	[Ask Team]
Tues	20		No Toddlers	
Tues	20	17:00	Magazine Deadline - March	
Tues	20	19:00	Bereavement Support Training	Lauriston Rm
Tues	20	19:00	Connect Plus	Pillar Hall
Thur	22	19:00	Choir Practice	Pillar Hall
Sat	24	Day	Prophecy Course	TBC
Sat	24	10:00	Football: BVU v. Niddrie Community Ch.	[Ask Team]
Sun	25	10:00	Gillespie Crescent Service	Gillespie Cres
Sun	25	18:30	Communion service	Sanctuary
Tues	27	19:00	Bereavement Support Training	Lauriston Rm

Congregational Roll

Death

Sybil Anderson 20 January





Thur	1	19:00	Choir Practice	Pillar Hall
Sat	3	10:00	Football: BVU v. Bristo Memorial	[Ask Team]
Tues	6	19:00	Bereavement Support Training	Lauriston Rm
Fri	9	Eve	Bethany Care Shelter	Halls
Sat	10	Eve	Bethany Care Shelter	Halls
Sun	11	11:00	Mothering Sunday Service	Sanctuary
Mon	12	19:00	Congregational Board	Pillar Hall
Tues	13	19:00	Connect Plus	Pillar Hall
Thur	15	19:00	Choir Practice	Pillar Hall
Mon	19	19:00	Friends of Meadows and Bruntsfield Links open meeting	Pillar Hall
Tues	20	19:00	Bereavement Support Training	Lauriston Rm
Wed	21	19:00	Annual Business Meeting	Sanctuary
Sun	25	01:00	CLOCKS GO FORWARD	
Sun	25	09:45	Gillespie Crescent Communion	Gillespie Cres
Tues	27	19:00	Connect Plus	Pillar Hall
Thur	29	19:00	Choir Practice	Pillar Hall
Thu	29	19:00	Maunday Thursday Service	Sanctuary
Fri	30	19:00	Good Friday Service	Sanctuary
Sat	31	Day	Prophesy Course	TBC

It's no April Fool - Easter is Coming!

Easter Sunday is **1 April 2018**. Watch out for full details of our Holy Week and Easter services in the March issue of BVC Link magazine.



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



Barclay Viewforth in Winter Snow



Christmas by Tree Lights



Rebuilding fragile oranges before the service



Not only Jesus can walk on water...



“great chieftain o’ the puddin’ race”