

Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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STOP PRESS! Vacancy news

I'm very pleased to report that, after he had led the morning service on Sunday 23 February, there was an overwhelming vote in favour of **accepting Rev David Clarkson as our new Minister.**

David is currently at Prestwick North and Monkton Parish Church in Ayrshire. He was a Police Officer in the north of Scotland for 19 years before becoming a Church of Scotland Minister, and is married to Linda.

The Nominating Committee was particularly encouraged by the way David's experience, and that of his congregation, linked with the missional ideas we have been working on at Barclay Viewforth. There are many examples on their website: www.mpnchurch.org.uk

We are discussing with David a date for the move, and then

an Induction Service can be arranged by Presbytery. Over the next few weeks there will be a chance for everyone to sign the 'Call' to him from the congregation.

John Ritchie



For those who missed the service, David's sermon is available to listen to on the BVC website and the podcast feed - Editor

Pastoral Letter

As I write this on a cold, dark, dismal day, thoughts of spring seem far off, especially when it doesn't feel as if we've faced the worst of winter yet. However, it's not too far away with the crocuses and daffodils already creating a splash of colour on the damp, dreary ground.

The month of March, as well as heralding spring, is a month when we remember mums on Mother's

Day. We've all had one, and we may all have, or have had, different experiences in the relationships we've had with the women who gave birth to us (or the person who nurtured us as we grew up). The effect of that relationship may also affect the way those of us who are fortunate enough to be mothers parent our children.

When I think of Mother's Day I can't help but think of the countless paintings of Mary, the mother of Jesus, standing at the foot of the cross. What trial and torment she must have gone through. No mother expects to see their child suffer like that, even though she knew she was "...*the Lord's servant...*" in giving birth to God's Son. She didn't know what lay ahead when she was pregnant and nothing will have prepared her for watching her son die a cruel and unusual death. You can almost imagine her trying to hide her shock and horror so she could just look with loving eyes at Jesus in order to give him strength. Such love. I've recently been supporting a mother who lost her son and, similarly, she didn't let her son see her anguish and supported him lovingly to the end, even though her heart was breaking. Her faith gives her the strength to go on. Such love.

Sadly, we live in a world which seems incapable of showing such love to others. Wouldn't the world be a better place if we could hold back some of the challenging thoughts we have rather than fire a salvo at individuals, either in person or on social media. Many have struggled to deal with the recent death of a celebrity, a 'victim', in some respects, of media/ social media attention. If only people had held back or written words of support and encouragement instead, perhaps that lady's family would not be suffering.

Please note that I'm not suggesting that we shouldn't hold people to account, rather that there is a time and a place for such encounters. Perhaps life would be better if we could 'haud oor weesht' occasionally and speak words of love and support. It's well known that children thrive in a positive affirmation environment. Adults do too!

In a new commandment Jesus said, "**Love one another, as I have loved you.**" (John 13:34)

Do we? Can we?

As we celebrate the women in our church family this month, who in your life (men or women) can you offer words of love or thanks to? Can I encourage you to do it, without haste. You never know how your words might impact that person's life in a positive way.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another," (John 13:35)



Elaine Hogan

Kirk Session Update: Children at Communion services



A number of years ago Session discussed the question of children taking communion. We were happy that, if parents felt their child was of an appropriate age to make a decision and both child and parents agreed, then the child could take the elements.

A lot of new children and families have joined us since then so:

- to let you know that is our agreed approach as a congregation
- to encourage parents and children to come along to Stefanie's chat about Communion on 14 March (there's a notice about this in the magazine)
- and, for the Communion Service on Sunday 29 March, we'll ask the children rejoining us in the Sanctuary to sit with their parents, rather than as a group upstairs.

John Ritchie

Favourites

17/91. What's that? A really bad test score? No, it's how many songs we've sung this year from our favourites list!

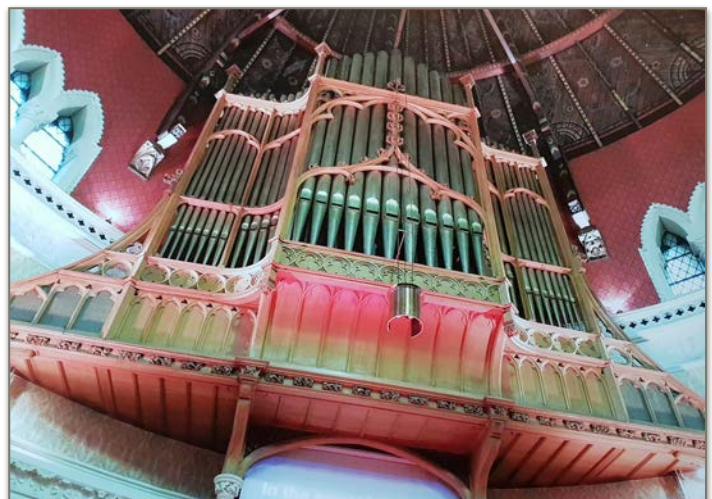
Last year you were offered the chance to write some favourite songs on a piece of paper for us to sing. Many were popular ones that we sing regularly, but there are a few there that we don't sing often (if ever).

Jean M and Jean G had the job of compiling them into a list, and you may have noticed that, this year, in the orders of service that the word (favourite) appears after some songs. The worship leaders all have the list so can see the ones that folk would like to sing, so as of the end of February, that has been some 17 songs.

I am going to issue a disclaimer here! Some of the 'titles' that people wrote down weren't titles and we had to guess what they might be. Also, sometimes various songs have the same title! Some we couldn't work out, and there were a couple that weren't actually Christian songs.

I hope you enjoy singing your favourite song, but if you miss a Sunday morning you might miss it, since we did this anonymously.

Julie Nicholson



Thoughts on worship

Over recent months, as I have gradually (and at times reluctantly and with very shaky hands!) taken on a greater role in leading worship, I have increasingly felt drawn to say hello to those of you I don't know very well and to share something of what worship means to me, as well as the process of attempting to listen to God's still small voice when choosing hymns and songs for the evening services. This is an attempt at starting that conversation.

In a job interview I was once asked as part of a group discussion 'if you could speak every language like a native speaker or play every musical instrument like a professional musician, which would you choose?' Almost everyone in the group chose languages; they felt that this would enable them to communicate fully with everyone they encountered, to offer support, to encourage, to enjoy friendship, to mediate disagreements, even to prevent war and bring peace. But to me, as someone who often finds that I am at a loss as to how to do any of these things in my own language, the choice was simple – music. Music crosses countries, cultures, backgrounds and experiences in its own form, with no need for translation. Music has the power to create thoughts and feelings so powerful they move you to tears or to laughter, with no words at all. It expresses a depth and humanity that I have never experienced through language alone. Once the voice is added to this mix in song, I believe that music is the most powerful and most universal language that exists. If this can be true of music created primarily out of human interest, how much more powerful is music that is created in love and worship with God, the original Creator?

Throughout history, music has been central not only to worship, but also to conversation with God. Poetry and music run through the Bible like electricity, bringing energy and focus to the words of God's people; or like a thread, weaving stories, promises and praise together across generations. Moses and Miriam sing praises to the Lord in Exodus; Mary sings of her pregnancy and the birth of Christ; and songs are peppered throughout the book of Revelations, music in Heaven, continuing for eternity. The entire book of Psalms is comprised of poetry and song, and as well as singing of God's glory and awesomeness, they ask questions, form prayers and even cry out in anger or anguish.

For me, worship through music is the absolute foundation of my relationship and my



conversation with God. It is a form of direct communication with God that I cherish above all others. Scripture that seems inaccessible when reading alone in a quiet room, or a prayer that it is hard to form or focus on, often sparks to life and meaning when put to music. When I'm choosing songs for the evening service, there are often ones that 'jump out' at me, phrases

that lodge themselves in my head and sink deep, growing in meaning and reverence as they do so. In song, I recognise truths and wonders about God that have never occurred to me before. I find that I am able to grasp something greater than the individual words on the page, to connect with God in a way that transcends my relatively poor use of language and understanding of theology. There is something deeper there. This is where



I find the most personal, loving, vital relationship with our living God. My prayer is that our worship, congregationally and as individuals, in all seasons of our soul, would lift us nearer to God, help us to hear the Still Small Voice, and open and guide a heartfelt conversation, praise and worship of our Lord.

Rebecca Kemp

Prayer Circle at Barclay Viewforth

Newer members of the congregation may not know that we have an online prayer circle of people who have committed to pray when requests have been made from within the congregation, and sometimes from outside. These requests are circulated privately to those on the list. Sometimes we receive updates which encourage our praying. Requests can be made by email to at prayer@barclayviewforth.org.uk –



it is also possible to put a written request in the prayer box at the back of the sanctuary, and cards are provided for this purpose. The box in the church and the email are checked once a week. If your request is more urgent, please email the church office at administrator@barclayviewforth.org.uk and it will be forwarded to me.

If you would like to be added to the list of those willing to pray, please let me know, either in person or by email.

Also, if you are on the list and no longer wish to be there, just drop me a message and I can take you off.

Prayer is a much-valued part of our worship, and we would welcome as many as wish to join this group. Confidentiality should be respected at all times.

Elaine Rumney

BV Creative

The first meeting of BV (Be Very or Barclay Viewforth) Creative was on a wet and windy night in February. Fifteen people came along to 'show and tell', and there was a mixture of things people had created themselves along with things other people had made. These ranged from a 200-



year-old sampler to crocheted animals (and everything in between). Everyone got a chance to talk about their item or items, and refreshments were enjoyed.

To quote Katelynne in the last magazine: 'I'm not very creative' is something that a lot of people say, but we know that it's just not true...'. Showing your own work, if you aren't confident, can be pretty scary, as you are exposing yourself to others, and that makes you vulnerable. And taking a microphone and speaking about your work, or the work of others and it's meaning to you is also not easy for everyone. I'm glad that last night was a safe space for creatives, but some folk were still a bit disparaging about their own abilities. I did hear the phrase 'I'm not creative, I just...' and the work that that person had done was highly-skilled and beautiful!

We are made in the image of creative God, and a wee bit of that rubs off on each one of us!

Why not come along to the next meeting on 17 March for Easter card making. Go on, give it a try!

Julie Nicholson



THE EDINBURGH PASSION

“LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS”

Do you want to see churches across the city open their doors, welcoming the city in?

Cutting Edge Theatre is producing a large-scale community-wide project, telling the Easter story in ‘real time’ over the Easter weekend. It aims to be 63 continuous hours of artistic expression of the story. We need your help! Here are some ways you can be involved:

1. We need people to be part of the community cast – no experience needed. Just turn up to rehearsals which are every Thursday evening – 7pm at Edinburgh Elim Church, 18 Morningside Road. EH10 4DB. **We desperately need people for this.**
2. We need volunteers to help steward at different events. People can sign up/express interest by emailing hello@edinburghpassion.com
3. There will be a number of informal walks:
 - the walk to the cross on the Friday (venue to be confirmed)
 - the walk to Easter Road Stadium on the SundayThese cannot be city-wide walks, so we are simply encouraging groups and churches to walk to these venues.
4. VOLUNTEERS – we will need all the help we can get! People can volunteer to be part of the coordinating team which works on the logistics, fundraising and practical help.
5. PRAY – we really need your prayers. It is getting increasingly challenging to be able to tell the Christian story publicly. We want this to be an amazing event that is for EVERYONE!

The website is www.edinburghpassion.com

If you need more information, contact Suzanne through hello@edinburghpassion.com

Learning Community

The latest Barclay Viewforth Learning Community took place on 31 January and 1 February. On the Friday evening, after an introduction and worship led by Elaine Hogan, we got together in our separate teams or Missional Communities to review the plans made last year. We were also encouraged to 'dream big' and imagine, in an ideal world, what we would like to see our teams doing in the future. We then had a feedback session, reporting to the full group and giving a summary of our activities in the last six months.

I was impressed by the time and dedication given by so many people in our church and also what talent and creativity we have in our midst.

We met again on the Saturday morning and were led in a short worship and talk by Iain Sutherland, before breaking into our teams again to work on establishing realistic goals and an action plan for the next 6 months. We also gave ourselves two accountability questions. These questions help us keep on track and focus on the purpose of our teams. We finished with each of our Missional Communities sharing their goals, action plans and accountability questions – and all of us gathering round each team to pray with them and offer words of encouragement.

I remember thinking last year how much I learned about all the amazing, inspiring work taking place within our church community and this year was no different. All are welcome to attend and I recommend it as a Friday evening and Saturday morning (including coffee and pastries) well-spent.

Catriona Taylor

TCP Beetle Drive

Following the installation of the defibrillator outside Saunderson's (the butcher's shop), a course was held in the Pillar Hall to train local shopkeepers and others on the use of the equipment. This was run by volunteers from the St John's First Aid group.

To thank them, TCP decided to hold a fundraising beetle drive. This was a very successful evening – full of fun. Despite the bad weather, all the tables were filled and it was lovely to see so many church members supporting us. Ages ranged from 8 to the 80s and everyone was enthusiastic. A comment was made that we were even more competitive than the church football team!

During a break in the middle of the evening, we all enjoyed hot or cold drinks and nibbles and homemade cakes and biscuits; then it was back to the competition. Winners chose from a selection of prizes.

£140 was raised. TCP would like to thank everyone who supported the evening.

TCP Team



Flower rota

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



	Donated by	Arranged by
1	Anne Gaskell	Anne Gaskell
8	Mari Gordon	Irene Hall
15	Helen & Craig Stoddart	TBC
22	TBC	TBC
29	May Stewart	Lorna Gentleman

Kitchen notes: jazzing up pasta leftovers

Why do you cook? Is it a chore, a necessity, a habit, a dietary need – or a joy? I suspect for all of us we would answer that differently depending on how we feel, how busy our week has been or who we are cooking for. Do you



find your week consists of one dish multiple times, or are you a different dish every night person?

There are definitely times when I feel I am just ‘going through the motions’ because I know I should eat healthily; and then other times I choose to cook, to explore the different flavours and textures that can be created in the kitchen, and expand my repertoire. Some weeks are lots of similar dishes – other weeks I make something totally different every day.

Having had a glut of pasta sauce (and no room in the freezer), I wanted to make something slightly more impressive for tea than just pasta-and-sauce. I had a hunt through the recipe books and found this idea to make a basic pasta and sauce meal suddenly become a taste explosion, a dish worthy of entertaining with. Put cooked pasta and a tomato-based sauce together in an oven proof dish; dot over the top some pesto and goats cheese; bake in the oven (180-200C) for 20-25 mins until hot and bubbly.

Linda Garside

Organising an event in the Pillar Hall or Sanctuary?

With the halls so well used, it is great to see more church groups using the Pillar Hall and Sanctuary. We thought it was time to remind everyone of some practical things to consider when organising an event or meeting. Things like having people to man the doors and who will lock up can be easy to overlook when there are other more interesting aspects, but they do need done.

If you have questions or suggestions please let Julie know.

Here are the points to consider when organising an event:

- Contact the office to check if the hall or sanctuary is available (admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk).
- Arrange enough helpers to be on number of doors you want to use. If it is a concert, this includes finding stewards.
- Arrange access with the church office.
- If public event in the sanctuary, arrange who will remain in the Pillar Hall (doors are not locked due to fire safety).
- Once doors unlocked, ensure someone in Pillar Hall at all times (be especially vigilant while, for example, removing things from building).
- Fire briefing for volunteers.
- Stewards should be around the building keeping an eye on things.
- If refreshments are being served, please ensure kitchen is left clean and tidy, items borrowed from the Halls kitchen are returned, surplus items are removed and that crumbs/spills are dealt with.
- Who will tidy up/lock up (return Pillar Hall/Sanctuary to normal layout)?
- Take away used table cloths/tea towels. Wash and return asap.
- Lights off!
- Lock all doors securely, leave by disabled door (pull behind you).

Katharine Ellis

Thank you!

We thank the congregation of Barclay Viewforth Church for your love and support during the past few months. We really appreciate it. Thank you, Joseph, Sarah and Michael Dixon xxx.



Forest Church



I skived off the second day of the recent Learning Community and caught an early bus (or two) out to Loanhead Church because I really wanted to go along to the meeting they were having about Forest Church. This is something that I have been interested to learn about for quite a long time, but there hasn't been an opportunity close by. There were a few familiar faces including Fiona Tweedie and Fiona Lough, who, like me, had wanted to find out more. Part of the meeting was a talk, but part was crafts and a short time outside celebrating St Brigid's day with song and liturgy. Traditionally, 1 February was when the Christmas decorations came down – and we gathered around a fire and burned Christmas tree branches.

What is Forest Church? It can be many things, but here is the description from the website: 'Many people can describe transcendent moments in nature where they feel deeply connected to something bigger than themselves, and Forest Church is a way to explore that connection within community.'

Forest Church is a fresh expression of church drawing on much older traditions when sacred places and practices were outside – but it is also drawing on contemporary research that highlights the benefits of spending time with nature in wild places.

Forest Church isn't just normal church happening outside; instead, it attempts to participate with creation. And it isn't just a fellowship group doing an outside activity: 'We aim to learn, worship, meditate, pray and practice with the trees, at the spring, along the shore...'

A Forest Church group is going to start soon in Musselburgh, and I was hoping to go along to that, but having just looked, the event is full. I felt that it was apt that I was there during Learning Community, as what our Missional Communities seek to do is live the gospel in a different way, a way that connects with others outside of our building and tradition. Forest Church can do this too.

If you want to know more, check out the website <http://www.mysticchrist.co.uk>

Julie Nicholson

Books4U in March/April: devotional books

I hope you found some good winter reading in the life stories on the Books4U carousel throughout January and February.

Now we have entered Lent. This year, Lent began on Wednesday 26 February and ends on Thursday 9 April, the day before Good Friday. Lent is a time for reflection and preparation, before the celebration of Easter. With that in mind, the March/April focus is on devotional books that encourage thoughtful, daily Bible reading, as well as books on prayer and the Holy Spirit. Perhaps they will inspire you to begin your own reflective journal throughout Lent.

You will find some books to stimulate creative writing in amongst the reflective stuff – some poetry, drama and fictional stories written to present Christianity in an engaging way. Some of the books may be old, but there is a timelessness about books worth reading. Here is a piece of wisdom from the author and playwright Alan Bennett in his play *The History Boys*: “The best moments in reading are when you come across something – a thought, a feeling, a way of looking at things – which you had thought special and particular to you. Now here it is, set down by someone else, a person you have never met, someone even who is long dead. And it is as if a hand has come out and taken yours.”

Happy Reading!

Elaine Edwards

Afternoon Fellowship

After our enjoyable Christmas Lunch at the Golf Tavern, January saw us returning there to celebrate the birthday of our national bard with the traditional meal of haggis, neeps and tatties. The only downside was that Roberta wasn't there to provide her always stirring address to the haggis.

In February, we were back in the Pillar Hall to welcome a return visit from the Linten Adie Singers, who meet once a week in the St. Bride's Centre in Dalry. It was a very enjoyable programme of less-well-known folk songs from a group who are amateur in name only.

On 3 March, we are having a return visit from Ann Paterson, this time accompanied by her husband Hugh. We have walked the Camino de Santiago with Ann and accompanied her and Elaine on a very wet try-out of a proposed St. Magnus Way on the mainland of Orkney. Now we are going to enjoy a visit to what was the No. 1 on the medieval pilgrim's bucket-list – the Holy Land. Don't think rain will feature.

The meeting starts at 2pm in the Pillar Hall, followed by chance to chat over a cup of tea – so if you are free, do come along.

Lorna Gentleman



Useful information

Minister

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

Interim Moderator	Ian MacDonald (Minister, Holy Trinity Wester Hailes)	
Locum	Martin Pearce	martin.j.pearce@blueyonder.co.uk

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
Creative Group	Anne McCulloch
Flowers	Isobel Anderson
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 **April** issue must be submitted by 17:00 on **Tuesday 17 March**.

Emma Torry, Editor



Sun	1	12:15	Church Lunch	Pillar Hall
Sun	1	13:00	Church walk	TBC
Mon	2	19:00	Pastoral Team Meeting	Pillar Hall
Tues	3	14:00	Afternoon Fellowship: Holy Land Tales	Pillar Hall
Wed	4	19:30	Knit2Together	Pillar Hall
Thur	5	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Mon	9	10:00	TCP	Pillar Hall
Thur	12	19:30	Bible study group	Pillar Hall
Sat	14	10:00	Children and Communion	Pillar Hall
Sun	15	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Pillar Hall
Sun	15	11:00	Kingdom Kids	Halls
Tues	17	17:00	April Magazine Deadline	
Tues	17	19:30	BV Creative	Pillar Hall
Thur	19	10:30	Knit2Together	Pillar Hall
Thur	19	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Fri	20	19:00	Jesus: the Evidence	Pillar Hall
Mon	23	10:00	TCP	Pillar Hall
Mon	23	19:00	Kirk Session	Pillar Hall
Thur	26	19:30	Bible study group	Pillar Hall
Sun	29	01:00	CLOCKS GO FORWARD	
Sun	29	09:45	Gillespie Crescent	Gillespie Cres.
Sun	29	11:00	Communion Sunday	Sanctuary

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



Thur	2	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Sun	5	12:15	Church Lunch	Pillar Hall
Thur	9	19:00	Maundy Thursday service	Sanctuary
Fri	10	19:00	Good Friday service	Sanctuary
Sun	12	08:30	Blackford Hill service, breakfast	Blackford Hill
Sun	12	11:00	Easter Sunday service	Sanctuary
Sun	12		No Evening Service	
Tues	14	19:30	BV Creative	Pillar Hall
Sun	19	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Pillar Hall
Thur	23	10:30	Knit2Together	Pillar Hall
Sun	26	10:00	Gillespie Crescent	Gillespie Cres.
Sun	26	18:30	Informal Communion	Pillar Hall
Thur	30	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall

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



Volunteers working hard on the BVC skip day to clear out the vestry, organ loft and more



John presents his gift to Blythswood Care



Watch out for the flying pancakes!



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



You never know who will visit the office – this is a tenrec!