



# Link

April 2019

Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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## "While He was blessing them, He left them...."

Luke 24:51

Jesus knew how to leave people he loved! He left them while blessing them! Okay, I'm obviously not Jesus, and Slateford falls short of Heaven but as a follower of Jesus I wonder if there is something here for me to learn in my leaving of you?

**To leave while blessing you**, is to leave you in such an awareness of God that the only possible response is joy, praise and positivity. The disciples weren't rejoicing that Jesus had gone but that God was present and His favour was upon them for the future. The reality of Resurrection resonated with them and joy, praise and positivity was their response. They would wait now for the next phase of church growth and missional activity aware that the next phase would be greater than anything to date! To leave while blessing you is to so enlarge the awareness of God that negativity dissolves!

**To leave while blessing you** is to leave you in the awareness that you are known and valued! Jesus knew "them" and valued "them"! And in the years we've spent in the company of each other we've gotten to know each other through highs and lows, shared events big and small; in the joy of weddings, the



sadness of funerals, the flow of baptisms (and dedications), the telling of stories, the meeting of lives, the facing of problems, the dreaming of dreams, the laughter, the tears, the escapades on a football pitch, the reimagining of church at Session and Board, the mundane but necessary duties of church maintenance, the adrenaline rush of pioneering adventures, the excursions into mission and of course the weekly gatherings on Sundays. To leave blessing you is to leave thanking God for you!

**To leave while blessing you** is to leave blessing you as a whole while aware of each of you. Jesus, we notice, didn't mention names. He didn't single out James and John, Mary and Martha, Peter or Andrew. But He knew them by name and would look at each one of them with fondness. I know the part so many of you have played in my life, the life of my family and in my ministry these 14 years, each one of you is appreciated and included in the whole if not mentioned here by name!

Finally, **to leave while blessing you** is to actively hold these three up every step of the process. That means continually expressing the awareness of God who seeks your flourishing, actively expressing the gratitude I feel towards you, and valuing each of you as part of the whole family of Barclay Viewforth, where the best is yet to be!

Well, its nearly time to go but following Jesus I'm ready to go craving God's blessing to be upon each and all of you, echoed in the familiar words of Numbers 6:24-26

*24 "The Lord bless you and keep you;*

*25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;*

*26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

Bless you!

Sam

## Congregational roll

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### Baptism

David Redmund Gotts  
Lee Gates  
Andrew Smith

3 March  
26 March  
26 March



### Death

Margaret Robertson

24 February

## Easter at Barclay Viewforth

You are invited to join with both our church family and the worldwide church family as we meditate on the death of Christ and celebrate again His resurrection this Easter season.

### Sunday 14 April - Palm Sunday

11:00 **The Mount of Olives** - Going down the mountain

18:30 Believe

### Thursday 18 April - Maundy Thursday

19:00 **Meet Him at the table**

Join us for a meal together where we follow Jesus and his disciples through their last hours together. Please sign up for this service in the Pillar Hall or by contacting the office (noting any dietary requirements) to help with catering.

### Friday 19 April - Good Friday

19:00 **The Mount of Crucifixion - the sounds of Easter**

A meditative service including communion.

### Sunday 21 April - Easter Sunday

08:30 **Celebration on Blackford Hill**

Join us at the summit for a short open-air worship service to begin our Easter celebrations. Please park at the Royal Observatory. Don't forget allow time to walk up to the top. Bring eggs for rolling after. Breakfast will be served in the church halls afterwards.



### 11:00 - "Climb Every Mountain" - Unshakeable

Join us for an extra special Easter Sunday service - not only will we be celebrating Christ's resurrection and the unshakeable hope we have as a result, but we will also be saying a final farewell to our minister, Sam Torrens and his family as they head off to "climb new mountains" across the city. Please join us to say your own farewells.

### 19:30 "Resurrection" - Origin Scotland event, Usher Hall

Instead of an evening service, you are invited to join members of BVC at the Usher Hall for the annual Origin Scotland Resurrection event.

## Higher than the mountains...

For those of you who have missed it, I have been away from the magazine for two months as our family of three has expanded to a family of four. It's been a long journey and a steep learning curve for all of us.

Perhaps even more so for me.

We had to make some medical decisions about my care, and the birth of our daughter. Sometimes, those kind of decisions are made clear by the scientific evidence in favour of one choice or another. This was not the case for us. There was no research either way.

So how to navigate? How to know what was the right decision?

I'm a Christian. I prayed.

And I did not get an answer. At least, not a direct one.

Over and over, I heard the words of this song: *higher than the mountains that I face / stronger than the power of the grave / constant in the trial and the change / this one thing remains...*

With these words came the overwhelming awareness of God's love for me, and his presence. God didn't tell me what to decide. He stood with me and empowered me to decide.

I'm still not confident in the decision I made in the end. I still wonder if it would have been better had I chosen differently.

What I do know is that God stood with me through it all. I know the one thing He wants me to know: his overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love for me.



As we each walk up mountains on the way to the cross, the tomb, and the stone that was rolled away this year, this is the time to seek again the heart of the gospel - that God loves us unconditionally.

## Flower rota

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



	<i>Donated by</i>	<i>Arranged by</i>
7	Margaret Stewart	Isobel Anderson
14	Christine Wight	TBC
21	In memory of the Glasses	Lorna Gentleman
28	Doreen Copland	Karen Warwick

## Kitchen notes: roasted aubergine with squash, halloumi, mint and bulgur wheat

As I sit contemplating what recipe to include this month, it feels like winter has come back after a couple of more spring-like weeks. Over the winter months I have done a lot of roasting pan/oven bake dishes. They are great when you don't really feel like cooking, once its in the oven there is nothing else you need to do. Most of them reheated reasonably well and there is the bonus of minimal washing up. The recipe below is one I had wanted to try for ages, but hadn't quite got around to it until I had a friend visiting for the weekend – we were both pleased with how it tasted and how easy it was to make.

Serves 4

- 700g squash cut into chunks
- 1 large aubergine cut into chunks
- 250g halloumi cut into cubes
- 3tbsp olive oil (I used a generous splash)
- 200g bulgur wheat
- 400ml veg stock
- 1 bunch mint
- Salt and pepper



1. Heat oven to 180C
2. Put the squash, aubergine, halloumi, olive oil and half the mint into a roasting tin, season, stir and roast for 45mins
3. Add the bulgur wheat and stock to the tin, stir well then cover with foil tightly, return to the oven for 15 mins
4. Allow to stand 5 mins before serving with the remaining mint scattered over the top.

*Linda Garside*

## Afternoon Fellowship

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Returning to the Pillar hall in February after our forays to The Golf Tavern, we heard all about the Blythwood Trust from Michelle. To most of us the Trust means shoeboxes but we found out this is just one of the ways the Trust is involved both in Scotland and in many different countries all over the World.

Based on Christian values, it combines spreading the Christian message with practical projects that provide relief, education and development projects. Seeing the conditions that are found not just in Third World Countries but in Europe we must give thanks for organisations such as Blythwood and their many volunteers and supporters.

In March, we staged our own version of show and tell. Everyone brought an article that meant a great deal to them personally and then shared the reasons for treasuring the article with the group. The treasures ranged from a Victorian Christening robe to stones. Very few of the articles had any intrinsic value but the *memories* were priceless and we felt we knew each other so much better.

April sees the last visit from Sam as our Minister so put it in your diary.

*Lorna Gentleman*

## Don't burn the Meadows!

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The Community Garden on the Meadows is hosting the 2019 Don't Burn the Meadows event on 4 and 5 May featuring a Better BBQ party on the Sunday, with fun activities, notice painting and a community art project. We will spend the urgent message about caring for the environment and our park by creating a flock of hand-crafted sheep, each bearing an environmental message. The Better BBQ party will include vegetarian BBQ food, and lots of entertainment and stalls from local groups.

For more information, search for "Don't Burn the Meadows" on Facebook.

## Barclay Viewforth Barbecue

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A reminder that this year's festivities are on the near horizon - Sunday 26th May is the date you will hopefully put in your diary. We'll be off to Vogrie Country Park after the morning service. The usual car sharing, variety of food and optional activities will all be on offer. More details next month, but we hope you can keep the date, the last Sunday in May.

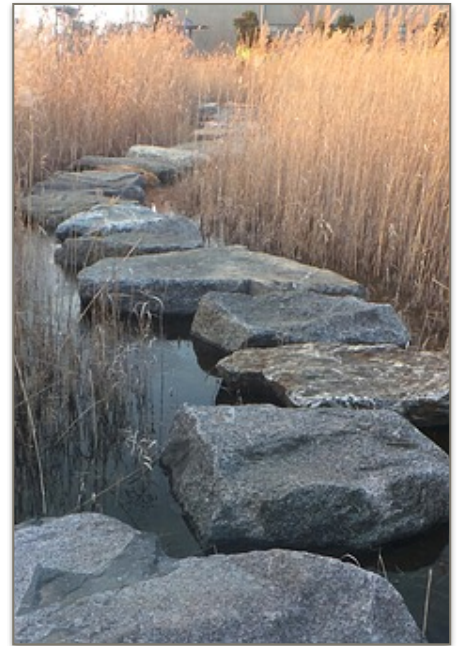


*Ed Bain*

## Pathways

The spring Pathways programme was all set for launch on Wednesday 6 March at the Bruntsfield Hotel, having been put through a practice session with the help of the autumn team. Sadly no-one came along (although we do have someone registered for the autumn programme already). The team will regroup and focus on publicity for running a daytime and an evening programme concurrently at the end of October. Look out for more information on this before the summer.

A special thanks to the two teams who have given up their time to provide this service for the community, and also to our guest speakers who have been willing to take part. If you can suggest any places that we might publicise the courses, please let me, or one of the team, know.



Elaine Hogan

**Hey you!**

Are you between the age  
of 0 and 12?

Are you up for going wild,  
*being creative* or  
becoming a **BIBLE-EXPLORING-EXPERT?**

Then come to our kid's worship on:  
~~17<sup>th</sup> March~~, 28<sup>th</sup> April,  
26<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> June.  
**11 am**

Looking forward to seeing  
**you!!**

## Easter Play 2020

Cutting Edge Theatre is producing a large scale Passion play concept all over the city of Edinburgh, Easter 2020. The idea is to produce a "real time" play, starting on the Thursday evening with the Last Supper and then something happening every hour until the Resurrection on the Sunday morning. Groups will take an hour and interpret the story in any art form they choose.

The aim is to have as many groups as possible (especially marginalised groups) take an hour, so if you work with any groups who would be interested, do get in touch by emailing [cuttingedge21@btinternet.com](mailto:cuttingedge21@btinternet.com)



**Forth Bridge Cross**  
11 May 2019

Stand together with mums this Christian Aid Week.

Time: 2pm (Registration open from 1:15pm)

Location: Forth Bridge Administration Office, South Queensferry, EH30 9SF

Step up to the Bridge Cross Challenge this Christian Aid Week.

0141 221 7475  
[LKirkland@christian-aid.org](mailto:LKirkland@christian-aid.org)  
[caid.org.uk/walks](http://caid.org.uk/walks)

**christian aid week**  
12-18 MAY

Eng and Wales charity no. 1120811 Scot charity no. SC209150 Company no. 5171525 Christian Aid Ireland NI charity no. NC101401 Company no. N699154 and ROI charity no. 20914182 Company no. 40609. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. Photo: Christian Aid © Christian Aid August 2016, 36018

Help bridge the poverty gap at the Bridge Cross Challenge on Saturday 11 May and celebrate the launch of Christian Aid Week.

Join the family-friendly sponsored walk across some of the UK's most historic bridges. With every step, every bridge crossed, every one of us can help save lives. Sign up today and take on your own Bridge Cross Challenge!

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/bridge-cross-challenge>

or get in touch with Lucy at [LKirkland@christian-aid.org](mailto:LKirkland@christian-aid.org) or 0141 221 7475 for more information.



## Useful information

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### Music

Organist/Choirmaster Andrew Robertson

Organist

Michael Bonaventure

Worship Band Leader Anna Nicholson

### Missional communities(\*), groups and teams

Afternoon Fellowship Jean Macaulay

Blessing\*

*Contact the church office*

Connect Plus\*

Elaine Rumney, Chris Hogan

Football

Andrew Stephenson, Sam Torrens

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

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*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](mailto:magazine@barclayviewforth.org.uk) or hand in a hard copy to the editor or the church office. Articles should be 400 words or less.

Content for the **May** issue must be submitted by 17:00 on **Tuesday 23 April**.

*Emma Torry, Editor*



Tues	2	14:00	Afternoon Fellowship	Pillar Hall
Tues	2	18:30	TCP meal	Pillar Hall
Thur	4	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Tues	9	19:00	Connect Plus	Pillar Hall
Thur	11	10:30	Knit 2 Together	Pillar Hall
Thurs	18	19:00	Maundy Thursday: Meet Him at the table	Sanctuary
Fri	19	19:00	Good Friday Service	Sanctuary
Sun	21	08:30	Easter Celebration on Blackford Hill	Blackford Hill
Sun	21	11:00	Easter Sunday Service, and Sam's Last Sunday	Sanctuary
Sun	21	19:30	Origin Scotland - Resurrection	<i>Usher Hall</i>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17:00</b>	<b>May Magazine Deadline</b>	
Sat	27	11:00	The NET Big Day Out	Cupar
Sun	28	11:00	Kids Service	Church Halls

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



Wed	1	19:30	Knit 2 Together	Pillar Hall
Thur	2	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Sat	11		Christian Aid week begins	
Sat	11	13:15	Christian Aid Forth Bridge cross	<i>S. Queensferry</i>
Mon	13	19:00	Pastoral Assistants	Pillar Hall
Thur	16	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Sat	18		General Assembly begins	
Sun	19	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Pillar Hall
Sun	19	PM	Heart and Soul	Princes St Gdns
<b>Tues</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17:00</b>	<b>June Magazine Deadline</b>	
Sun	26	11:00	Kids service	Halls
Sun	26	PM	Church BBQ	<i>Vogie</i>
Thur	30	19:30	Choir	

## Meadows Festival

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 This year, the Meadows Festival will be held on the weekend of **1 and 2 June**. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information coming soon about how we plan to get involved and bless our parish community.

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



Staff retreat on Holy Island



Stefanie settles in!



First ever kids service



You know it's cold when...!



Sam shows off his art work



Charlotte meets Lucille while delivering a meal for the family

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