



# Link

## February 2019

Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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### Pastoral Letter - February 2019

Dear Friends,

It's February! :-) For many people January is a long, dark and dreary month. After the highs (and lows) of the Christmas period everything is a bit flat.

Then, just around the corner we have February...it's not quite spring, although often we see the early signs of snowdrops/crocuses/buds on the trees, and these early glimmerings bring with them a sense of hope and thankfulness. We're thankful that we've survived another dark winter (although we will probably have to face more snow and ice), and we have the hope of new life that spring brings, along with the longer days. Somehow, we are more aware of God's presence in these days, particularly when we look on the beauties of His creation.

February also reminds us of love, and although we might not celebrate or mark Valentine's Day, our daily walk with God should be a constant reminder of the love He has for us in Jesus Christ. I was reminded of that in my daily bible reading the other morning, which included the verse...

***"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds..."*** Hebrews 10:24

In our humanity it's so easy to be disparaging rather than encouraging of others, so I found this verse to be a helpful reminder. If we can encourage each other on in loving and serving others for Christ's kingdom then our world might be a better place. So often we face times of uncertainty and may even be unsure of where God is in the bigger picture of our lives. It's at these times that we really do need to be there for other people, reminding each other that God's plan is far beyond our comprehension. He will make things clear for us in His time. In the meantime, He has provided us not only with Jesus, but with other people to walk alongside us and cheer us on as we seek clarity for our journey.

Who are you spurring on in their journey? Who are you spurring on in their **faith** journey?

Have you ever noticed how a child beams when you give them a "Well done!" or a congratulatory hug when they have overcome a difficult challenge. We are still children at heart and we too will thrive when people affirm or encourage us in our work/life/faith.

During the committal part of the funeral service we will often use the words from Matthew's gospel, "*Well done, good and faithful servant.*" How much more encouraging would it have been to say it to the person while they still walked this earth?

We only need to look around us to find someone who will thrive or grow because we've taken the time to encourage them. In doing so we will find that there is a knock-on effect - these same people will encourage or spur on others as they have been encouraged.

I read an article on social media the other day which was encouraging parents to put a heart with a message on their child's bedroom door every day from 1st February, reminding them, "*You are loved*"; "*You are special*"; "*You're a good friend*"; "*You are funny*"; "*You are kind*". As Christians, can you imagine our Heavenly Father doing the same for us?

WARNING: sometimes we will come across someone who looks downcast or grumpy and perhaps nothing we do will change that. It would be all too easy to comment on their demeanour, without thinking about what sort of day that person has had. They may have received bad news or feel ill. They may be struggling with a physical or emotional challenge which may not be obvious. It will only take a few moments out of your day to say or do something which may transform theirs.

May we each spend this month spurring others on towards love and good deeds.

Love and blessings, Elaine

### ***A Brexit Prayer from the Church of Scotland***

*God,  
who in Jesus,  
broke down all barriers,  
between people of different races  
rich and poor,  
male and female,  
Jew and Gentile,  
between heaven and earth,  
we worship you.*

*God,  
at this time of heavy responsibility,  
as decisions about future relationships  
with our neighbours in Europe are being taken,  
we pray for our leaders:  
that they will lead wisely;  
that they will listen attentively;  
that they will exercise grace;  
and that they will know peace  
in their deliberations.*

*God,  
at this time of uncertainty,  
within our nations and communities,  
we pray for ourselves:  
that we will remain open to the stranger;  
welcoming to the neighbour;*

*and committed to those who struggle.*

*God,  
we pray for your church of which we are a part:  
that we might be a place of honest reflection;  
respectful dialogue;  
open friendship;  
humility and reconciliation.*

*We pray that  
we might be a community that points to heaven,  
and shows ways in which heaven is glimpsed on  
earth.*

*God,  
who in Jesus,  
breaks down all barriers,  
between people of different races  
rich and poor,  
male and female,  
Jew and Gentile,  
between heaven and earth,  
we worship you.*

**AMEN**

# Prayer Breakfast

Praying -

Being silent before God.

Praying -

Kneeling down at the Wailing Wall.

Praying -

Raising thanks and gratitude.

Praying -

Becoming part of the fellowship with Christ, who says:  
"My house will be called a house of prayer." *Matthew 21.13*



Parents, children, young and old came together on our first Prayer Breakfast this year. Beginning with a breakfast and refuelling on pancakes and coffee in between, we enjoyed fellowship with God and one another: our thanks became visible in different colours of a blooming flower, we built our own Wailing Wall interceding for those suffering and without hope and some took the time to ponder silently on the many names God describes himself with: father, healer, comforter, peace.



If you would like to join us on our next Prayer Breakfast, please feel warmly welcomed to come by on the 17<sup>th</sup> February at 9.45 am.



### Kitchen Notes

The busyness of the festive season is over, I have cooked numerous meals for numerous people, I've made lots of sweet treats and cakes and washed more dishes than I thought I owned. It's now time for the kitchen to have a rest and for some simple meals – and you can't get much easier than soup with fresh bread and maybe a chunk of cheese. Most of the time when I make soup, I simply chop whatever veg is in the fridge, add some stock and blitz it. This does mean after a while they all taste the same. The recipe below is a very simple soup which is full of flavour; the recipe states chicken stock, but I normally just use vegetable stock.

#### Carrot and Ginger soup

- 1tbsp olive oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 8 medium carrots, diced
- 1tsp pureed ginger
- 500ml stock

Heat the oil, then add the onion and cook gently for 5 mins.  
 Add the remaining ingredients, bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 20 mins.  
 Blend until smooth, check the seasoning and serve.



Linda Garside

#### Flower rota

Thank you to those who have donated and arranged the flowers for the sanctuary for January and February



Date	Donated by	Arranged by
6 Jan		
13 Jan	Rena Young	Sue Hindle
20 Jan	Margaret George	June Macleod
27 Jan		Karen Warwick



Date	Donated by	Arranged by
3 Feb	Sylvia Gardiner	Lorna Gentleman
10 Feb	Peggy Jones	Isobel Anderson
17 Feb	Helen Glass in memory of the Glass family	Lorna Gentleman
24 Feb	Janet Darling	Janet Darling

## Barclay Viewforth Church Afternoon Fellowship

In December, we enjoyed our now traditional Christmas lunch at the Golf Tavern. We were joined by those who work out of the Barclay Office, apart from Sam who had another appointment. It was a great gathering and we are very grateful to the staff of the Golf for all their hard work.

Our first meeting of the New Year also took place at the Golf Tavern where we enjoyed a traditional Burns lunch, again in the company of those working out of the office, grateful for not having to peel and cook large pots of neeps and tatties. Roberta was much missed for her 'Address to the Haggis', but nobody missed having to wash dishes and clear up.



At the beginning, Julie read from a book by Margaret Feinberg: *Taste and See, Discovering God among Butchers, Bakers and Fresh Food Makers*:



*“God is waiting around every table, in every pantry, in every backyard garden. You just need some fresh ingredients, some time, and a friend or two. No matter where we find ourselves, mealtimes can become sacred spaces of supernatural satisfaction. When we invite God in, he satiates our hunger to know and to be known, to understand and to be understood, to love and to be loved. In community, God touches our physical appetites and spiritual affections.”*

*Lorna Gentleman*

The Afternoon Fellowship will resume its monthly meetings in the Pillar Hall on the 1st Tuesday of the month. It's great to see that we now have some men joining in with the activities - all are welcome.

**Tuesday 5 Feb. 2:00.** What happened to our shoeboxes?

Come and hear from Michelle from Blythswood Care, who personally delivered some of our boxes to Eastern Europe.

**Tuesday 5 March 2:00** Sharing our treasures

Please bring something (portable) along which you have treasured and share stories around the tables.

**Tuesday 2 April 2:00** Preparing for Easter

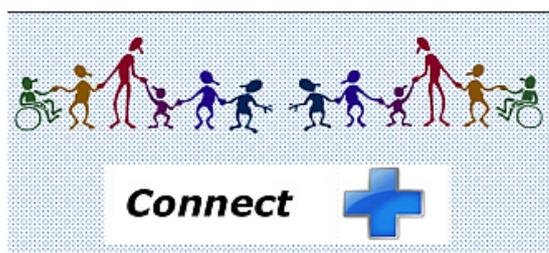
Rev Sam Torrens will join us as we think about the meaning of Easter.

## Missional Communities in Barclay Viewforth

The NET Missional community originated as a group of friends looking to study the bible and learn more about Christ. This has blossomed into a thriving and diverse group within the church where there are now lots of opportunities to become involved. We range in age from 20s – 50s. Some of us have children and some of us don't. Some of us regularly attend Barclay Viewforth on Sundays, others may only attend once a year if that.

We would like to welcome anyone at the church who is looking for fellowship and discipleship to come and join us. At different times we run an evening bible study, a daytime book group for those with children, away days, an annual weekend away, walks, a BBQ at the Bruntsfield Links, and a wonderful Christmas lunch fit for a king! Many of these events are family friendly.

Andrew Paterson



### Connect Plus

Our vision, when we first opened our doors in 2014, was to serve adults with extra needs, through worshipping God together meaningfully and building friendships around shared social times together. And through this connection,

in time, to encourage this group to enter fully and with confidence into the life of the Barclay Viewforth congregation. Since then, Connect Plus numbers have been steady, with seven members and one carer coming regularly, drawn both from within the congregation and from outside. The group has grown in strength and community, with a tangible bond of mutual caring and support between the members and the seven helpers.

The evenings are in three parts, usually beginning with some kind of arty crafty occupation related to the theme of the evening. This allows the start time to be flexible as people arrive, and also gives an opportunity for members to catch up with each other.

We then move into the central worship time, which includes some singing, and accessible ways of addressing the message of the evening. Following the Sunday morning themes allows us to draw on the children's talks and visual aids we have seen, and it has been interesting to see that sometimes during the planning meetings we have anticipated the verses which Sam will use. We finish with a short time of prayer. It has been heart-warming to see how everyone participates as they can, and even the more shy amongst us find we can take part in whatever way feels comfortable. During the last part we gather around one large table to share food, and also any news people have. The atmosphere is always friendly, occasionally hilarious and generally there is much fun to be had.

We meet fortnightly on a Tuesday evening, from 7.00 to 8.45pm, broadly following the school term dates. We are always keen to hear of potential new members, or even new helpers, as there are times when our regulars are away. We would love you to come along one evening and see if you might enjoy being part of such a warm, caring and enthusiastic group.

Please speak to Elaine Rumney on 313 4956 if you would like to know more.

## Blessing

### A Missional Community of Healing and Wholeness

“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. 3 Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.”

Deuteronomy  
28:1-3 (ESVUK)



Blessing is a group of folks of all types who meet to sing, encourage each other, but primarily to bless one another in Jesus' name. Part of this blessing is our firm belief and practice that God heals. Jesus through His ministry healed all illnesses and ailments; and he sent out His disciples to do the same. We have seen healings of skin complaints, eyesight, pain, bones healed, cancer and joints to name a few, but also inner healing of emotions etc.

Jesus heals today.

‘Coming to pray and praise is a privilege, and we should take advantage of the opportunity the Holy Spirit gives us.’ PL



‘We meet God and each other; don't wait to strike while the iron is hot; but make the iron hot by striking it.’ AL

‘We receive fellowship, friendship and prayer’ WL

‘The prayers seemed to do more good than the prescribed medication.’ CT

We are group of learning disciples of Jesus being trained by Jesus in the ministry of healing.

We follow Healing Rooms protocols so recommend not stopping medication until you have seen your GP for confirmation.

We will also show people round the church and offer to bless them in Jesus name, many people encounter God as a result.

Feel free to drop in for 5 mins or the full 2hrs, the kettle is on and the biscuits are out.... Just bring yourself and your need. Pillar hall 11am-1pm on Tuesdays. *Iain Sutherland*



*Seoras and Debs recently visited Edinburgh, but were unable to be with us on Sunday.*

*They would like us to know they are thinking of us all, and send their love.*



## Why TCP?

### What is the point of TCP - Tollcross Community Pastors?

Recently we were asked why we had become involved. What came through was the thought that we wanted the church to be an active, caring part of the community, in other words, in a practical way “Making God's love known through Jesus Christ.”

We wanted to show that we weren't just members of the big building with the tall spire, we were members of the local community. That we were an active part of the whole neighbourhood, made up primarily of independently owned shops staffed by the owners and sometimes assistants; of shoppers and passers by and of the homeless who slept on the church steps and in doorways, and who begged on the pavements.

By visiting most of the shops every second Monday morning we have got to know the owners and are welcomed and indeed have become friends with some. Problems have been shared, some have been solved. A new venture is a newsletter which will be produced bimonthly. It is a way of introducing the shopkeepers to each other and is already becoming very popular. The neighbourhood is on its way to becoming a caring community, and we feel a real part of it.

## Bags of Hope

TCP is organising Bags of Hope which will be given to the homeless in our neighbourhood. The plan is to fill bags with articles which might be useful for those sleeping rough. With advice on what would be useful having been sought in Preston from various organisations dealing with the homeless we plan to follow the scheme which started there. At one of our beetle drives when some of the shopkeepers and members of the congregation joined us, we raised some money. While much can be sourced from local shops some things can be hand made.

Would anyone who enjoys knitting like to make a woolly cap to keep out the cold? A simple pattern will be supplied. This will make a big contribution for comfort during the bitter winter weather – much better than the odd coin dropped into a cardboard cup!



If you are interested in this project or would like to know more about TCP speak to one of our members:

Elaine Hogan, Helen Wolpert or Una Laidlay.



In Autumn 2018 a volunteer team from the church ran its first six week Bereavement Support Programme. The course is based on the Stepping Stones programme devised by Tom Gordon and all members of the team underwent training with Tom before embarking. It was with a fair degree of trepidation that we set out on our own path.

This course was open to anyone in the local community and beyond. Each evening had a central theme and a lead speaker and the topics covered ranged from exploring aspects of loss, to health issues and money matters. However, every evening offered opportunity for participants and team members to speak candidly if they wished or simply to sit and listen.

Without a doubt the team found it a privilege to have been involved in the programme and the early nerves and anxieties about whether we were being of any 'use or help' quickly dissipated as relationships and confidences grew. There were, of course, tears at times as we heard people's stories but there were many, many laughs too. People relaxed and we all realised that we had indeed embarked on a journey together.

This is a course which does not offer a quick fix to grief. In many ways grief is a badge that we wear lifelong and for this short time we walked alongside people struggling to cope. They had recognised that they needed help but ironically they showed great inner strength to walk through the door and to continue coming week after week. A common theme they talked about was a feeling that although to them their loss was as raw as the day it happened many people around them, colleagues, friends and family had moved on emotionally, and consequently they felt they had no-one to open up to.

This is where a course like Pathways is so invaluable: an opportunity to share.

As a team, our main role was simply to listen. The course is for those with faith and those with no faith alike and, indeed, there was no direct Christian content. However, the programme truly was an amazing opportunity to make God's love known.

John Coull

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### ***Blythwood Care***

A letter of thanks for our contribution to the shoe box collection was recently received from Blythwood Care. Blythwood works in many other spheres in addition to the shoeboxes, and it was surprising to hear how diverse and far flung their work is. This ranges from helping to provide fire engines, an ambulance and personal training in Serbia, funding support to students in higher education in Romania, even helping with the Highland food bank in Scotland!



If you would like to hear more of this much needed work, come to the Afternoon Fellowship on Tuesday 5 February (see page 5).



Tues	5	14.00	Afternoon Fellowship Guest Speaker	Pillar Hall
Thurs	7	19.30	Choir practice	Pillar Hall
Sat	9	09.30	Vocations Information Day	St John's
Sun	17	09.45	Prayer Breakfast	Pillar Hall
Tues	19	17.00	<b>Deadline for March Magazine</b>	
Thurs	21	19.30	Choir Practice	Pillar Hall
Thurs	28	18.30	Pathways	Pillar Hall

**Red** events are BVC

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



**Helping you become a church where disabled people belong**

**When? 21 February to 11 April 2019  
Thursdays 7-9 pm**

**Where? Weeks 1-4 Community Church, Edinburgh, EH8 9NZ  
Weeks 5-8 Life Church, West Richmond Street, Edinburgh EH8 9EB**

The course is aimed at people from any denomination, whether in leadership or lay. We are looking for participants who are open to learning together: learning more about the impact of disability and changes in attitude, behaviour and practice that can make our faith communities more whole.

The course is free, although we invite donations to the host churches to help with heating costs.

The contact email address is [enablingchurch2@gmail.com](mailto:enablingchurch2@gmail.com). Our elder, Mairi Gordon, has kindly agreed to field enquiries about signing up for the course. Please contact her if you would like to attend. She will ask you to complete a registration process.

[www.churchesforall.org.uk](http://www.churchesforall.org.uk)



## Useful information

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### Minister

Rev. Sam Torrens

minister@barclayviewforth.org.uk

### Ministry Team

Administrator

Julie Nicholson

admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Pastoral Associate

Elaine Hogan

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OLM student

Nikki Kirkland

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Children and Families

Development Worker

Stefanie Conradt

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### 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\*

*Contact the church office*

Connect Plus\*

Elaine Rumney

Flowers

Isobel Anderson

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

**\*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 **March** issue must be submitted by 17:00 on **Tuesday 19 February**.

*Emma Torry, Editor*



Kate Blackadder found this church car park in New Zealand



The children of Mini Quest under the parachute, finding out what it feels like to be kept safe by God



Stefanie is really missing her guitar



Two of our flower ladies, Anne and June, setting up for Christmas



How to become an angel



Practice makes perfect.....

Want to see your photo here? Email it to the address on page 11