

Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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## Tuning in to God

When we were praying as part of the 24/7 prayer across the country last week, the words of the song 'Alabaster' came to mind. The song starts 'I am broken at your feet, like an alabaster jar'. A couple of thoughts came to mind. The first is that we need to acknowledge that we live in a broken world. You only have to watch or read the news to see the difficulties there are: the COVID situation around the world, particularly in India; the escalation of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict; extreme poverty; murder, to name but a few. God must surely be broken-hearted about what He sees, and our hearts need to be broken by all of this too. There is one thing we can do and that is to pray and to keep praying for all of these situations. Prayer can make a difference – just ask one of the 30 folks who have been taking part in the Prayer Course on Sunday evenings and who pray regularly.

The other thought ties in with something I mentioned a couple of years ago... *kintsugi* (also known as 'golden repair'). This art form sees the potter take broken pieces of pottery and put them together again, using gold to help join them. The finished article is stronger and even more beautiful than the original. I like to think of Jesus being the Master potter in our lives. We need to come to Him, just as we are – broken, warts and all – and allow Him to put us back together, stronger and more effective. One of the



ways we can come to Jesus is....you may have guessed it...through prayer. We offer ourselves to the Lord and ask Him to fix us, or the problems we are carrying. We never need to carry them on our own.

I mentioned at the start that, while praying, 'words came to mind'. You probably read that and thought nothing of it, but can I ask you to pause and reflect on that. Have you thought about the fact that this might be one of the many ways in which God communicates with us? Over the last few years we've been learning to listen to God during times of reflection. For some, this is easier than it is for others. Others may need to adjust the 'tuning dial' on our personal radios in order to have that two-way communication with God. Some of us may not even have a clue how to do that. Read on...

We've been talking in recent weeks in our services (and will continue to do so) about spiritual gifts and the way we might use them. Some may think that they have no spiritual gifts. Can I encourage you to set that aside. God has blessed each of us with different gifts, some of which we may not even be aware of...yet! Sometimes we need to be shown how to use these gifts. It's rather like (if you'll excuse another metaphor) a baby learning to walk. They will fall down a number of times before they master the technique required to stay upright. So it is with spiritual gifts. We may need to learn the technique or seek how to discern God's will. Having experienced this in recent years, it can be a scary journey – but exciting at the same time. We need to allow ourselves to be open to receiving and using these gifts for, in so doing, not only will our own lives be enriched, but God will use us to help bring blessing to His people.

1 Corinthians 14:1 calls on us to 'follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit...'. During the coming weeks and months we hope that God will encourage you in this, and the Ministry Team will be on hand to offer support and, perhaps, further training so please let us know how we can help you grow in your desire for these Scriptural gifts. Whatever else happens, don't let personal fear stand in the way of your learning and understanding. We are all learning to walk on this journey. Every journey begins with the first step, so step out knowing that God will be your guide.

*Elaine Hogan*



## Artlink

I painted this painting which was part of an exhibition by Artlink, a charity that does non-clinical work at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. It was done before the first lockdown. Normally, we have an exhibition, but we were not to encourage people to visit the exhibition due to COVID. Anne Elliot and a graphic designer compiled the exhibition together and sent it to print where it was published into a wee book.

*Fiona Kennedy*

## Craftivism at Barclay Viewforth

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'I came across the word 'Craftivism' a few months ago, but it seems that the word has been used for over a decade. The word comes from the joining of craft and activism. When I think of activism, I think of protest marches, shouting and writing angry letters. These are things that I cannot do, it's not in my nature, and yet I am passionate about the climate emergency, health inequality and social justice. This seemed like a possible solution. I liked the idea of using my craft skills to show my concern for the world. Craftivism should start with the activism and then the craft design comes after. The process of slow crafting can help the craftivists reflect and think about the issues.

During that first week I kept hearing and seeing the verse from Micah 6 v8. 'What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?' As I thought about Craftivism, I began to think of another word, Craftilism, a mashup of Craft and Evangelism. Our Christmas angels may be an example of this and more could be done in the future.' - Anne McCulloch

'Craftivism is about making a positive impact on the world by raising awareness of important issues, and gently encouraging people to do something about them. I believe this fits perfectly with the call on Christians to make a difference to people's lives. It also takes on one of the teachings of the Growing Young course – young people want to see the church taking an interest and action on social injustice.' - Katelynne Kirk

As well as running our regular Craft and Chatter Zoom calls and our on-going projects, we hope to hold a Craftivism workshop in late June which will be open to everyone. We have chosen to make this a Saturday so as many people can join as possible. This will be a chance to learn more about Craftivism and to work on a project together. Details of the project will be revealed closer to the workshop date. If this is successful, we would like Craftivism projects to become an outreach part of the Creative Group, which can be advertised to people outside of the church so they can join in. If you would like more information about our on-going projects, would like more information about our Craftivism workshop or would like to join the relaxed Craft and Chatter calls on a Thursday night please contact us at [creative@barclayviewforth.org.uk](mailto:creative@barclayviewforth.org.uk).

*Anne and Katelynne*

## Barclay Viewforth Accounts for 2020

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If you would like a copy of the accounts for 2020 please either email Janet Darling ([treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk)) or phone the office and leave a message. Please say whether it is an emailed PDF copy or a printed copy posted to you that you would like – please include either your email or postal address, and a copy will be sent to you.

## Growing Young – "All churches grow old but strategic churches grow young"

Hopefully everyone will be aware that there is a team at BVC that have been taking part in a Growing Young Cohort over the past year and may remember being asked to participate in the Growing Young Assessment. In this article we will highlight some of the results of the assessment as well as providing a reminder of what Growing Young is; what the Growing Young Team have been doing for the past year; and what our focus will be for the coming year.



As lockdown has lifted and restrictions are easing, we are excited about being able to take forward some initiatives and we are hoping that as some of you read this you may feel called to join with us and support us on these. We will provide further information in the weeks to come, but please contact any member of the Growing Young Team in the meantime if you would like to be involved.

### What is Growing Young?

So firstly, a bit of a recap about Growing Young. This is an initiative from the Fuller Young Institute (the organisation that also produced the Sticky Faith book that the Quest and Next leaders have considered in our work with young people). Based on research on congregations, Growing Young provides a strategy that a church can use to involve and retain (and possibly also attract) young people. The research has shown that by investing and engaging with young people (which GY terms as ages 15 to 29) this benefits and breathes life into the whole church. Everyone rises when we focus on young people. There are six core commitments of Churches Growing Young that surround the concept of being a Jesus-centred community:

1. **Keychain Leadership** – empowering others, especially young people, by giving them responsibility
2. **Empathy today** – instead of judging or criticising, step into the shoes of this generation
3. **Jesus Message** – welcoming young people into a Jesus-centred way of life
4. **Warm relationships** – it's not about 'cool' worship bands, but focus on warm peer and intergenerational friendships
5. **Prioritise young people (and families) everywhere** – look for creative ways to support, resource and involve young people and families in all facets of the congregation
6. **Best neighbours** – enabling young people to neighbour-well locally and also globally



## Growing Young Assessment

The purpose of the Growing Young Assessment was to ascertain how BVC was doing in these different areas, allowing us to consider the results in establishing priorities and in considering future plans.

The full survey results can be seen here – <https://www.barclayviewforth.org.uk/whats-on>

However, by way of summary for those without the time or inclination to read the full results BVC scored strongly in warm relationships, which reflects what the Strategy Group had discovered when they undertook their survey – the BVC welcome and ‘family feel’ was something many commented on. We also scored reasonably well in relation to best neighbours (no doubt in part due to the work of TCP, our work with Bethany etc) and Jesus-centred message. We had lower scores in unlocking keychain leadership, empathy and prioritising young people everywhere. We understand that it is not unusual for these to be the areas where churches have lower scores.

So what does this mean for us? There are a few things that we can take from this and focus on which include:

1. As we currently do not have that many folk within the 15–29 age bracket, it is likely that this will be expanded in order to include more people and encourage and empower people to be more involved in the life of the church and have the chance to participate in important decisions.
2. With the advent of technology as well as changes in society, the challenges that young people face are not the same as those faced by people even 10 years ago, never mind 20, 30 or more years ago. We can make an effort to try and understand this more and listen to young people rather than assume we know what they are facing.
3. Not just through specific youth programmes, but also across the life of the congregation (and also within the parish).
4. Whilst there are very strong relationships between members of the congregation we could be better at this being more cross-age. Even just simple things like knowing the names of young people and children and *vice versa*.



### What has the BVC Growing Young team been doing?

Over the past nine months we have been meeting online as a group and also with the other churches in Scotland and the Growing Young team in America. We have learnt about the key concepts and have also had a chance to discuss ideas

and share with the others what each church has been doing in order that we can pool ideas and learn from, inspire and encourage each other.

Part of this has been to develop a Church Transformation Plan. We will provide further details of this in a later magazine article, but one of the first things we will be focussing on – particularly given that we have not seen each other in person for so long – is some cross-age social activities, when permitted. This could range from more mingling and perhaps some games at church lunch to activities such as baking, hiking or a film night. So, get your thinking caps on please! Please just message one of the team or the office with any of your ideas.

*The Growing Young Team*

## A spring walk

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It was a lovely sunny yet cool day,  
My walk took me to the canal.  
A breeze was blowing, people were out,  
the water was still, full of reflections  
of boats, buildings and the occasional tree,  
still bare yet spring was emerging.

I stopped at a boat-cafe, for a hot drink.  
By Boroughmuir school, people were  
sitting  
on benches, chatting with their teas and  
coffees.

The school stood still, it was a Saturday  
and  
also Easter holidays.

I sat for a few minutes and supped my tea,  
it was good to feel the fresh mild air,  
after what seemed like weeks of cold and  
snow.

As I continued walking, I noticed that the  
banks of the  
canal had been trimmed back,  
ready for the warmer weather to bring this  
season's growth  
of wildflowers and grasses.

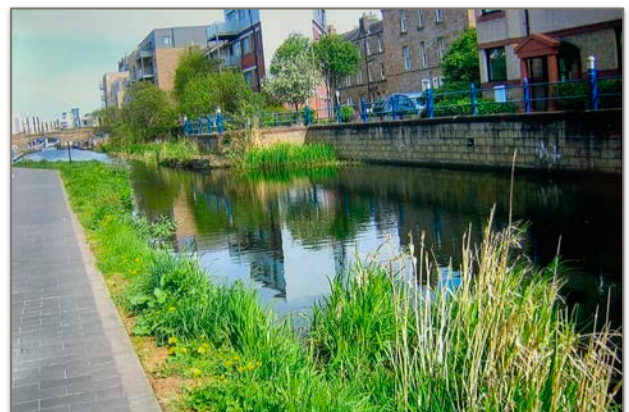
The odd can or bottle could be seen

Further away from the buildings, along  
the canal,  
the light and shade gave a peaceful  
atmosphere

Still there were comings and goings on the  
path  
cyclists, walkers and families, yet in a  
comfortable and  
relaxed manner.

After being at one with nature and people,  
I climbed some steps to the road,  
pausing for a moment in a church garden,  
before catching a bus home.

*Lee Gates*



## B.V. Creative update

We hope that many of you have been able to see and enjoy the latest display from the Creative Group during the Easter season.

The story started on Palm Sunday with an array of leaves placed along the top of the church railings, together with a sign saying 'Hosanna'. On Good Friday, crosses were added, along with red cloth to signify Christ's blood, and the sign was changed to one which read 'This is my body, broken for you'. On Easter Saturday the red cloth was changed to a black one to indicate death and mourning, and the sign to 'He broke the barrier'.

On Easter Sunday the vertical railings were festooned with a wall of daffodils and daisies. The sign then became 'He is risen' and the cloth was changed to white to celebrate the resurrection.

Many people stopped to admire the display and take photographs.

Our current display is be an artistic representation of the flames and wind of Pentecost.

A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved with these projects.

We are planning ahead for the autumn and winter, so if you would like to join in with our projects of poppies and/or angels please get in touch with us at [creative@barclayviewforth.org.uk](mailto:creative@barclayviewforth.org.uk) We can supply you with patterns and wool, and also have some knitting needles that have been kindly donated to us.

Anne McCulloch





## Flower Committee

The Flower Committee would like to say a huge thank you to Isobel Anderson for all her time and efforts organising the church flowers. For many years, Isobel has made sure there have been beautiful flower displays for Sunday services – either arranged by one of us committee members or on many an occasion by Isobel herself. Isobel was always there to keep everything going; making sure there was someone to arrange the flowers, taking donations, checking we could get in to arrange the flowers and supporting new members when they joined the committee. Isobel also co-ordinated the team efforts at special times of year like Easter and Christmas making sure the church looked fabulous with an array of floral arrangements and decorations. Thank you so much for all your time, effort and hard work, Isobel. I hope I can do as good a job as you did as you hand me the reins.

We are also losing one of our committee members: Irene Hall. The committee and I would also like to say a huge thank you to Irene for being a part of the Flower Committee and producing beautiful arrangements for us all to enjoy at Sunday services over the years.

I joined the Flower Committee three years ago just before myself and my now husband David were getting married at Barclay. My aim was to do my own flower arrangements for my wedding. As someone with no experience, I learnt everything I know about arranging flowers from Isobel and achieved what I set out to with a lot of help from Isobel and the other committee members. Having enjoyed learning and arranging, I continued after our wedding and here I am taking over from Isobel. A daunting task, but one I am keen to take on. If anyone would like to come along and be a part of the committee, please get in touch. We are always happy to have new members.

With in-person services returning, we feel that now would be a good time to start having flowers in the sanctuary again. With this in mind, we would like to start up the flower rota from the beginning of June. If anyone would like to volunteer for a Sunday please let me know. Equally, if anyone would like to make a donation please get in touch. Please note there will be no rota in the pillar hall for now due to COVID regulations.



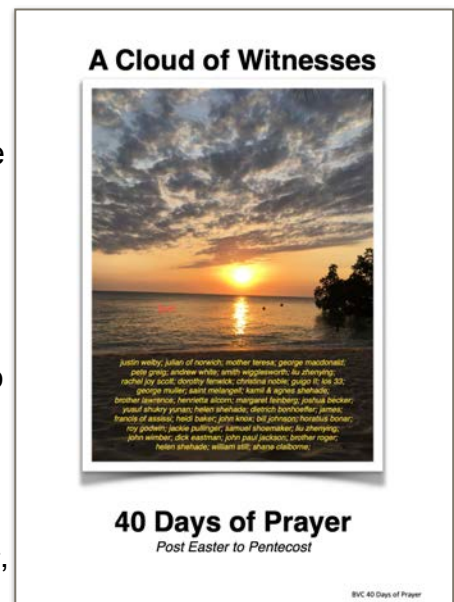
*Karen Warwick*



## Keep on praying

Over the past months there seems to have been more emphasis than ever on prayer, what with the 24 hours of prayer in March, going through the Lord's Prayer in sections and hearing it spoken in several different languages, and the current prayer course. The past year has seen real loneliness for many, life has been full of uncertainties and there has been loss of life on a scale never experienced by most of us. Hardship and struggles can strengthen our faith and I do believe that many have found themselves turning to God in prayer during the COVID pandemic.

Several years ago the Barclay Viewforth Ministry Team compiled and issued a prayer booklet, *A Cloud of Witnesses*, covering 40 days from Easter to Pentecost. This gave us a brief insight into the lives of 40 individuals, some already known to us, others less familiar. Since then I have gone back to this little booklet several times, often picking up on a detail I hadn't noticed before. Today this is a dog-eared copy which lies under my coffee table, but is still inspirational.



Many of the people mentioned kept their strong faith while undergoing extreme hardship and suffering:

- Rachel Joy Scott, a pupil at Columbine, who died proclaiming her love of God after being shot.
- Yusuf Shukry Yunan whose final prayer before being executed was a simple one, "Lord Jesus Christ".
- The 33 miners trapped in a mine in Chile in 2010 for 69 days claimed "There are actually 34 of us because God has never left us down here".

There are also quotes which can be helpful.

- At a time when both Europe and the church were in a bad place Julian of Norwich said "All will be well, all must be well, all manner of things shall be well".
- Andrew White, the 'Vicar of Baghdad' asked Christians to pray for peace and pay for peace.
- Mother Teresa is quoted as saying "If you judge people you have no time to love them".

As the sun shines, the birds are singing, the gardens are filled with colour and new growth may we thank God for his wonderful creation.

However we pray, keep it simple, keep it real and keep it up.

Jean Gordon

## Five minutes matters

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You have likely seen that we have been promoting the 24-7 prayer spaces, with BVC hosting two 24-hour (or one 23- and one 24-hour) times of prayer, along with encouraging participation in the Scottish 'Thy Kingdom Come' 10-day prayer initiative which ran from Ascension to Pentecost. I don't know about you, but I don't normally sit for an hour in prayer. But having participated in all these events I have found them to be really helpful times, forcing myself to spend that time with God rather than do something else (including sleep when I signed up for a silly-o'clock slot).

Sometimes it's good to push yourself to do something that doesn't come naturally to you. But in saying that I've enjoyed these hours of prayer, I know that many folk didn't sign up for whatever reason. I would like to say that an hour is great, but also five minutes matters! What do you do in five minutes? Wait for a kettle to boil, look at social media, if you're feeling industrious maybe wash some dishes? God will take our hours of prayer, but he will also take our five minutes. Indeed, he will take anything we offer...the sun comes out from behind a cloud and you feel the warmth on your skin, and in that moment you thank God for it, for the blue sky and the pink blossom. You've read an email and it's riled you, you spend a moment asking God to help, to calm you down, to intervene...whatever the situation warrants. He's listening to that too. You hear a friend is ill and turn to God. He's there.

And what about listening? Can we spend five minutes listening to what God wants to say to us? Can we make ourselves available to him in our spare moments? Five minutes counts. Make time for God today, whether it's an hour, or five minutes...or lots of 'five minutes'. It all adds up. It all matters.

*Julie Nicholson*

## Afternoon Fellowship

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The May meeting of the Afternoon Fellowship saw a guest speaker from the Astley Ainslie Community Engagement Group deliver a talk on the hospital. Dr Roger Kellett shared the story of the Astley Ainslie's background as a safe haven for the victims of plague some 500 years ago, through to its current status as a convalescent and rehabilitation hospital, although for how much longer it's hard to say.

We managed to have 19 people on the Zoom call that day, with special thanks to Mike Ellis and his team at Tap into IT for encouraging and supporting some of our members in getting to grips with the technology.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 1 June at 2pm** again on Zoom (contact Elaine Hogan for details). All are welcome....and it's a great way to catch up with people.

## Desert Island Capers

April was quite a busy month for the TCP team. We managed to have another entertaining evening with our shopkeepers on Zoom. Each of us came with a list of three items we would choose to take if we were to be shipwrecked onto a desert island.....Desert Island Discs with a difference, but we were allowed a Bible. Well what an assortment – from a bed to a photograph, from a Swiss Army knife to a wind up radio. We were able to figure out those who are practical and the dreamers!!!



As businesses were reopening we visited to catch up and drop in a newsletter along with an Easter gift. It took us until early May to get round everyone, but they were grateful and gave us really warm welcomes. It made our hearts glad.

Our friend Janet Saunderson has retired. We are going to miss seeing her on our visits, but we hope she will continue to come to our get togethers. We will be trying to persuade her to give us a wee bit of her story in our next newsletter.

It was marvellous for the team to meet in-person again after such a long time to share and pray together. Thankfully we have been able to support one another and enjoyed spending time together usually walking around the Meadows.

If you are in Tollcross, please pop into any of the shops and introduce yourself as a member of the congregation and we're sure you will be made welcome.

*The TCP Team*

## Lawrence and Irene Hall

After much consideration, Lawrence and I have decided to move to a church nearer our home.

We will miss all the friendships made over the fifty years we have been members and wish Barclay Viewforth all our blessings.

*Lawrence and Irene*



## Join our Sunday Service

You can join our worship in a range of ways:

- **In-person** on a Sunday at 11am. Kingdom Kids is now also running for children ages 3–11. Please **book** places for the service and Kingdom Kids by emailing the office before Thursday 12-noon.
- Join us online live at 11am at **[barclayviewforth.online.church](http://barclayviewforth.online.church)**
- Catch up with the service later by going to **[barclayviewforth.org.uk](http://barclayviewforth.org.uk)** for the latest videos
- Previous sermons can also be found on **[barclayviewforth.org.uk/sermons](http://barclayviewforth.org.uk/sermons)**, via our podcast or borrowed on CD via the office
- You can also listen to a shortened service via Twillo by calling **0131 357 6007**.



If you would like to join the Sunday evening prayer meeting at 7pm on Zoom or the Bible Study on a Wednesday at 7pm, please contact the office to receive the link via email each week.

## Key contacts

|                     |                            |   |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Minister</b>     | <b>Rev. David Clarkson</b> | <b><a href="mailto:dclarkson@churchofscotland.org.uk">dclarkson@churchofscotland.org.uk</a></b> |
| Administrator       | Julie Nicholson            | <a href="mailto:admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk">admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk</a>                |
| Pastoral Associate  | Elaine Hogan               | <a href="mailto:pastoral@barclayviewforth.org.uk">pastoral@barclayviewforth.org.uk</a>          |
| Children & Families | Stefanie Conrad            | <a href="mailto:children@barclayviewforth.org.uk">children@barclayviewforth.org.uk</a>          |
| Development Worker  |                            |   |
| Session Clerk       | John Ritchie               | <a href="mailto:sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk">sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk</a>  |
| Treasurer           | Janet Darling              | <a href="mailto:treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk">treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk</a>        |

## Contacting the Church while the office is closed



If you need to contact the church staff during this time, you can telephone the office on 0131 229 6810 and leave a message. Messages are still being checked regularly.

You can contact all the church staff on their usual email addresses as listed above.