



# Link

## March 2019

**Making God's love known through Jesus Christ**

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### From the Manse

Dear All,

April's magazine letter will be my last as your minister and I will want to focus on my gratitude to you for all your kindness and for all the opportunities to grow and develop. You will after that move into a time of vacancy. I'm sorry if this feels like a cause of upheaval or uncertainty and if it does I want to suggest that it can also be a time for reflection, resetting, and reinvigoration. Towards this end it has helped some to know the reasons why I'm leaving and I've provided an updated version of the letter read on 3 February. Since then Slateford Longstone voted 47 for and 3 against having me as their minister. But let me remind you of the reasons...

#### It's Time!

You know how Ecclesiastes 3 goes!  
There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to tear down and a time to build....

There is also a time for a minister to come and a time for a minister to go. For me, discerning the time has been a matter of deep reflection that has taken account of a variety of factors external and internal to myself.

Firstly, within Presbytery there is a Review coming our way. On 8 April, a Presbytery Team will visit us and carry out a Local Church Review. It has come to light that there are ripples of disconnect with the balance of worship as it is and a church review may help gain more understanding of what is needed going forward, but that would never be a reason to leave unless there were other factors.

Secondly, within Session there is a desire for a more detailed ten year strategy for making God's love known. This has led to the establishment of a strategy group of 7 elders who are authorised to co-opt members to assist them as they engage the congregation in consultation. Given that the last time such a venture was carried out was in the vacancy prior to my arrival and given that a ten year period takes me beyond retirement it feels right to at least contemplate stepping aside to let this inform the calling of a new minister.

Thirdly, within the congregation there is a real ability to respond well to a vacancy. Certainly there is a healthy Ministry Team that is second to none in my experience; a Pastoral Associate, an Administrator, a now appointed Children & Families Development Worker, who are gifted and committed. There is a unitary constitution bringing together the strengths of Board and Session. There is a Huddle and Learning Community built into how we develop mission and ministry. Despite departures there are new members joining us and a steady growth among our children within a developing children's ministry. The Pastoral Assistants continue to be angels in the way they deliver care, and the Missional Communities are valued and functioning conscientiously. As a whole we are committed to Jesus at the core and open to all at the edges. We are a

Church without Walls, and are well able to carry a vacancy. But why leave such a healthy context?

Well, there are also internal factors. I've done all that was asked of me and have enjoyed developing with you to the edge of my skill set. Next year I will be 60 years of age and on the home stretch to retirement, but there is still one more mountain in me. It's the belief that the church cannot go on addressing decline by closing churches, linking them, uniting them, readjusting them, under pressure to reduce its ministers to match finances and availability. There has to be another way. You've heard me say that again and again! But I cannot shout from a pulpit and not be prepared to step into a parish that is under review and therefore under the shadow of possible readjustment by Presbytery. The question rattling around in me is this - can God fan into a flame the flickering embers of smaller equally committed churches in resource stretched parts of presbytery? The church that has called me is a spirited Reviewable Charge that has held on during a long and sometimes discouraging vacancy. Whilst nurturing the established congregation there is the call to support outreach through Messy Church, a venture that resonates with my giftings. It is in that spirit of hopeful mission and pastoral growth that I leave you on Easter Sunday 21 April. The theme for that service is the theme "Unshakeable". Psalm 125 says that "those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion which cannot be shaken". In Christ we have the potential to be unshakeable in our faith, hope and love.

On the surface this may feel like an earthquake to some but deep down I know that, in Him, you are unshakeable!  
God Bless and lots of love,

Sam



## NEVER GIVE UP!

As we approach the potential Brexit day, let us not grow weary but redouble our efforts. As a recent prayer letter said:

*“It really is time now to ‘take the gloves off’ and pray like we mean it. Pray systematically, often, daily, nightly, keep going, be relentless until the matter is prayed through.”*

You may find some of these useful to declare and/or pray through over the next couple of weeks.

*‘The Lord reigns: let the earth rejoice!’ [Psalm 97:1]*

*‘Lift up your heads O you Gates! And be lifted up you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall*

*come in’ [Psalm 24]*

*‘Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. [Ephesians 3:20 & 21]*

*‘We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is, and who was, and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign’ [Rev 11:17]*

*‘Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him....But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God, let them exceedingly rejoice.’ [Psalm 68]*

*‘Let the lying lips be dumb, which speak arrogantly against the righteous with pride and contempt.’ [Psalm 31]*

*‘Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His.’ [Daniel 2]*

## Membership of Barclay Viewforth church

As we think ahead into the coming months and prepare to be a vacant charge, it is a natural time for people to reassess their sense of belonging and what membership means to them. For some, it might mean that it is a natural time to move on to a different church, perhaps closer to home. But for others it might be seen as a time to unite with others here in the congregation and show commitment to keeping things going in this transition period and beyond.

There are many folk sitting in the pews and chairs each week, who are committed to the work and fellowship, yet they are not formal members. Are you one of them? Now might be the time for you to stand up at the front to declare your faith and your affiliation to our fellowship.

One extra incentive for membership at this point in time is that you would be included in the voting roll for a new minister. If you want to be eligible to vote, your name will have to be on this list. Sam will be admitting new members for the last time at Barclay Viewforth on 31 March. If you would like to join then, please get in touch with Sam or the office as soon as possible. Also if you have any questions about becoming a member, or just want a chat about it again, just let us know.

Julie Nicholson

## Kitchen notes:

As many of you know I use baking and cooking as a way to de-stress and relax. Some recipes are definitely better than others if I've had a bad week – there is no point trying to make something that needs a delicate touch if I'm feeling grumpy and fed up. Other times I chose to bake simply because I want to.



One of my favourite go-to recipes is for shortbread; it doesn't require too much thought or skill but does produce a tasty biscuit reliably. This is also a recipe I share with the pupils at school as it is a simple ratio for the sugar, butter and flour so scales beautifully if you find you don't quite have enough of one of the ingredients to make a full batch (or want to make more for morning teas!). This is one of the very few recipes where I use butter rather than margarine; if you want to you can chill the dough before baking but it isn't essential.

### Shortbread (Bero Book)

150g plain flour,  
100g butter  
50g sugar

### Method

Heat oven 160C

Put all ingredients in a bowl, squish together with your hands - keep squishing, it will eventually all stick together, knead until the dough is smooth.

Roll out to a sensible thickness (between 0.5 and 1cm) cut into shapes. Re-roll offcuts and make more biscuits

Bake 15-20 mins depending on size of biscuit.

Alternative to cutting out shapes - roll into a sausage and cut into slices.

Linda Garside

**“The smell of good bread baking, like the sound of lightly flowing water, is indescribable in its evocation of innocence and delight. “**

*M. F. K. Fisher*

# Flower rota

March 2019	Donated by:	Arranged by:
3	Mairi Gordon	
17	Craig and Helen Stoddart	Irene Hall
24	Rena Young	
31	May Stewart	Lorna Gentleman

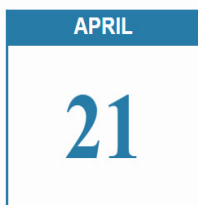


Thank you to those who have donated and arranged the flowers in the sanctuary during the month of March

# Save the Date



[www.originscotland.org](http://www.originscotland.org)



**RESURRECTION 2019**  
Usher Hall - 21 April, 7.30pm



**SQUARE WHOLES**

**swish**

WELCOMING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND CARERS

Sunday 10 March at Central Church, Tollcross.  
Doors open at 1.00 for lunch.  
For more information:  
email: [squarewholesedinburgh@gmail.com](mailto:squarewholesedinburgh@gmail.com)



### ***Tollcross Community Pastors***

It was great to meet up with all the Missional Communities and spend time learning about each other, but also to be challenged as to our next step forward. Our second newsletter has again been well received by the local businesses and we are already planning for our third edition.

On 13 February we shared a pre-valentine meal with a few of our shopkeepers in the Pillar Hall. As always it was a fun evening with lots of laughter and good food. As a thankyou, they have volunteered to supply our next one and have also agreed to donate items for the Bags of Hope. Love is definitely in the air (around Tollcross Community).



Great news too that Anne McCulloch has picked up the baton to get a knitting group together for the hats and who knows what else!!!!

We as the TCP group feel truly blessed as we are welcomed and respected in the Tollcross Community. It would be great to have others join with us as we reach out to more businesses. Our next outreach to the shops will be on Monday 4 March. We meet in the office at 10.00 am. All welcome.

Barbara Roberts

### ***Learning Community on 1 and 2 February***

With members of the Connect Plus Team, we have been attending the learning communities for some years now. Initially feeling a little trepidation, we have consistently found this an encouraging and affirming process. We have the chance to look at what we have been doing together for the last six months or so; to look at what worked well, or what maybe needed a bit more planning. All of this in a context of prayer and worship, with the members of the other missions and ministries.

The latest sessions were no exception. There was an exciting array of established and new ministries, and we were invited to "visit" the different teams and learn from them, as well as having members from other teams visit with us. They brought new ideas and new visions, helping us to breathe fresh air as we looked forward to what the next six months might hold for us.

At the close each team came together with everyone, receiving encouragement and prayer for the future. I would urge anyone who has not attended these events to look out for the next one.

*Elaine R*

## Knit 2 Together

### Creative ?

At the recent Learning Communities event I asked if we could start a creative ministry within Barclay Viewforth. This idea was warmly welcomed.

While reading the February magazine, I saw that there were two organisations looking for knitted items. TCP are looking for woolly hats to be included in their Bags of Hope to be given to the homeless. Blythwood Care need hats and scarves for their annual Shoebox Appeal in the autumn.

So would you like to come along to 'Knit 2 Together'?

We plan to meet a couple of times each month in the Pillar Hall. We would have one morning and one evening meeting per month. The first two meetings will be on:

**Friday 15 March in the morning from 10.30 am - 12 noon, and  
Wednesday 27 March in the evening from 7.30 - 9 pm.**

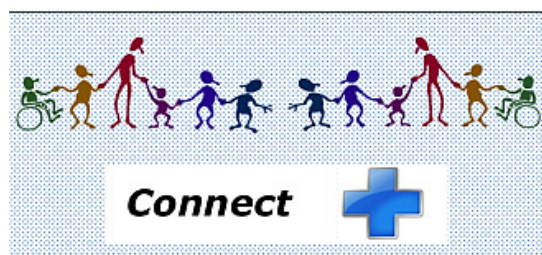
If you would like more information, please speak to me after a service, or phone me on 07713 634 912 or send me an email - [a.e.dallas@googlemail.com](mailto:a.e.dallas@googlemail.com)



Anne McCulloch

### Connect Plus

For the last few sessions we have made good our plan to help our members feel more comfortable in our congregation.



The first involved a 40 year trek around the sanctuary, where we discovered that the Lord would provide. The red sea was safely crossed, water struck from the stone, manna fell from heaven as we followed Moses around. Moses, aka David, was transformed into a large scary giant as we returned to the Pillar Hall to sing our songs of thankfulness. For the second session we returned to the sanctuary, this time for a song fest and readings as we made stops at the various mountains beautifully made by the Quest children. It was interesting to discover that the message stuck more readily when being absorbed as feet were following the path.

We learned a few things about preparation, and mental notes were taken about how to make the session more readily accessible to everyone. We still have much to learn, and would welcome anyone who felt able to come along and learn with us, enjoying good company, good food and some hilarity along the way.

Elaine R



Thank you for your gifts over the last year for Friends International's Wee World Café. The café has been a key ministry in Edinburgh since 1995 as we seek to fulfil our vision to see international students transformed by the Good News of Jesus so that they fully engage with the mission of the church in the world. There are now nearly 19,000 international students in Edinburgh and the café, with its team of young Christians from Edinburgh churches, seeks to provide a

community for them to join, a place of welcome, friendship and somewhere where conversations about Jesus are normal. Barclay Viewforth gifts have been used to fund Friends International staff time required to organise and run the café (approx. 50% of the total funds required to run the café).

After some years of the café flourishing, more recently it seems to be in decline and the team have been trying to respond. Is this due to a changing student culture or just that Edinburgh is full of other more exciting options? Are the Chinese (by far the largest national group in the international student population) wary to come because of things going on at home? Some years ago, we used to say that international students were interested to meet local people, learn about Scottish culture, practise English and make friends. Recently an international student told me that what she and others wanted was something for their CV and something for Instagram! The world is changing. We still feel that providing community for international students away from home is important and want to keep working on that, but it is important to adapt.

This year in the café the team have been cooking a hot meal for everyone each week. Eating together has improved the sense of community and a group of 6 students (from China, Italy and France) are coming regularly. Meeting outside the café in homes deepens the relationships further. Previously the café evening included an optional introductory Bible study. These have been very popular over the years, but more recently have been less so. This year the team have tried topical discussions, including on our concept of home, friendship and names. These seem to be going well and allow faith sharing in natural ways. One of the students we've got to know in the last two years is from Italy. When she first started attending, she wasn't interested in Bible study, but her interest has grown as she has got to know the team. Recently she has started studying the Bible one-to-one with a team member and attending a "seekers" group at another team member's church.

The café is still very small and perhaps needs to adapt further to have more of an impact. Elsewhere we are developing a leadership course called iLive (internationals Leading with Integrity, Vision and Excellence), teaching leadership skills with a Christian ethic. These courses are typically very popular and sometimes are run in partnership with a university and students even awarded credits. Each student has a mentor and in relationship it is common for the mentors to be able to share their faith. This and other ideas may be valuable additions to Edinburgh at some point, but the community provided by the Wee World Café remains a vital component too. Thank you again for your partnership.

Pete Edwards

## iVision: Stories

16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019, 11AM - 4PM

- A DAY TO BE ENVISIONED AND EQUIPPED IN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY AS WELL AS A PLACE TO SHARE YOUR OWN STORIES AND EXPERIENCES WITH OTHERS -

-  Logie and St John's Church, Dundee, DD2 1HJ, [www.logies.org](http://www.logies.org)
-  Cost: £20 (full price) or £15 (student concessions). A light lunch is included. £5 discount if booked before 15th February 2019.
-  Sign up on [iVision2019.eventbrite.co.uk](http://iVision2019.eventbrite.co.uk)
-  For more info please contact Joyce Swan:  
[Joyce.Swan@friendsinternational.uk](mailto:Joyce.Swan@friendsinternational.uk), 07732 949168





## Presbytery News

*Christian Aid* is launching The Salt Group, designed for business leaders of faith who are committed to improving their business practices in a sustainable way, and using their influence to make a difference locally and globally. This new business adventure is responding to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which set an ambitious target to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The networks will be a place for leaders to come together a few times a year, discuss issues, learn from each other and challenge each other to make small changes.



**Monday 18 March**  
**Dickson Minto**  
**16 Charlotte Square**  
**Edinburgh**  
**18.30-20.00**

More information and tickets from:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/business-as-a-force-for-good-tickets-56118733643](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/business-as-a-force-for-good-tickets-56118733643)

### The Guntrip Trust Lecture 2019



**David Fergusson OBE**  
 Professor of Divinity  
 New College, University of Edinburgh



#### **Craiglockhart War Hospital and Its Poets 1916-1919: A Centennial Perspective**

**5.30pm on Friday 26th April 2019**  
 Augustine United Church George IV Bridge, Edinburgh  
 Tickets £12; Concession £8 at the door

Online tickets: [www.guntriptrust.com](http://www.guntriptrust.com)

The annual Guntrip Trust lecture takes place on 26 April. Lecturer David Fergusson writes: 'From 1916-1919 in the south of Edinburgh, Craiglockhart War Hospital provided treatment for 'shell shocked' officers. Siegfried Sassoon's encounter at Craiglockhart with fellow poet Wilfred Owen and his treatment by W. H. Rivers, his psychiatrist, have been fictionalised in Pat Barker's prize-winning novel *Regeneration*. While discussing these three celebrated figures, this lecture will also explore more broadly the work of the hospital and its physicians, noting their contested methods and assessing the outcomes for those traumatised by the experience of war.'



### March

4	7 pm	Pastoral Assistants	Pillar Hall
5	2 pm	Afternoon Fellowship	Pillar Hall
7	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Pillar Hall
11	7 pm	Kirk Session	Pillar Hall
17	9.45 am	Prayer Breakfast	Pillar Hall
21	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Pillar Hall

### April

2	2 pm	Afternoon Fellowship	Pillar Hall
4	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Pillar Hall
14		Palm Sunday	
18		Maundy Thursday	
19	Good Friday		
21	Easter Day		

### Meet *Him* at the **t**able

Dear all,

We invite you warmly to a dinner-service where we follow Jesus and his disciples through their last hours together. Come and sit with us at the table, where everyone and every age is welcome to meet *him*. Let us experience anew the depth of Jesus' faithfulness and find hope in him, who welcomes us as his friends.

Join in the festivity on Maundy Thursday, 18 April at 7pm, Barclay Viewforth Church.

There will be a sign up sheet available in the Pillar hall. Please write if there are dietary requirements.

Or you can contact our administrator Julie Nicholson and tell us if you or your family would like to attend ([administrator@barclayviewforth.org.uk](mailto:administrator@barclayviewforth.org.uk)).

Please do so before 28 March.



Stefanie

## Useful information

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### Minister

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### Ministry Team

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OLM Student

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Children and Families

Stefanie Conradt

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Development Worker

### Officers

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Treasurer

Janet Darling

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Roll Keeper

Helen Miller

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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, Chris Hogan

Flowers

Isobel Anderson

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

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

*Emma Torry, Editor*



Even Sam can have a bad hair day...



Sam introduced some of his Huddle members at the Learning Community



Emma, Kitty and Rachel Torry



Some of the inventive mountain creations produced by our Quest children .

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