



# Link

May 2019

Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

## In this issue

- 1 Pastoral letter
- 2 Congregational roll
- 3 Arty Easter
- 4 A thank you from Sam
- 7 Seeking God's guidance
- 8 Vacancy: what next?
- 10 Flower rota  
It's a small world
- 11 Barclay Viewforth BBQ
- 12 Football news
- 13 Circle the City  
Sing Scotland
- 14 Kitchen notes
- 15 Safeguarding training  
Afternoon Fellowship
- 16 Barclay Bear bags  
Connect Plus
- 17 Useful information
- 18 May diary
- 19 June diary
- 20 Photo wall

## Pastoral letter

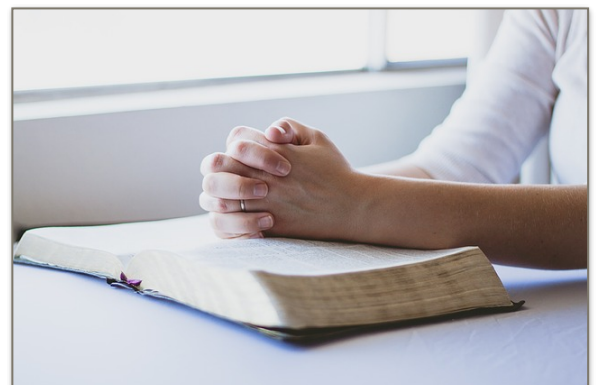
Dear Friends,

As I write this letter we have just gone through an emotional Easter Sunday service. Not only did we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, but we also celebrated the end of 14 years of Sam's ministry at Barclay Viewforth Church. I hope that we were able to do justice to both. Sam's departure leaves a big hole – not only in our ministry team, but also in our hearts.

### Where next?

We're told in scripture, "Do not worry.." (Matthew 6:25-34 - a passage which will be preached on at the start of our new series, "Thy Kingdom Come"). God does enough worrying for all of us! He will be the One who will see us through this next step in our journey. He may even encourage one or two of you to 'step out of the boat' and join us in helping to lead our services over the vacancy. Whatever happens, the gospel of Jesus Christ will continue to be preached at BVC. There may be times that it will not reach the high standard that's come to be expected at BVC, but we are all disciples on this journey and God will continue to teach and encourage us as we go.

It may be that 'worrying about who the next minister might be' is not high on your list of priorities at this time as you have other concerns



which are causing you to worry: ill health; job situation; worry about family/friends in difficult situations; bereavement;... please know that you do not have to face these worries alone... “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

If you struggle to find the right words...God won't worry about it. We should be like the child who runs home from school bursting to share with his/her parents all that's happened that day, the good and bad. The words come tumbling out, incoherently at times, but the parent can make sense of them all...and so God does with our jumbled thoughts and words. God doesn't care if our words come with scripted eloquence or mumblings from our hearts. Just being in communication with Him can make such a difference.

If you would like someone to pray for you – phone a friend! Or, let the ministry team know. We can sit down with you after a service, or at an arranged time during the week. We also still have the online prayer circle – you can write down your prayer request (anonymously if you wish) on the cards at the back of the church, and drop it into the Prayer Request box. This will be circulated to the people who have signed up to pray for others.

Let's continue to pray for each other, those in our church family and those beyond it. Continue to pray for Sam and Minnie as they prepare to step out into the “mission field” across the city. Pray also that God will continue to guard and guide our footsteps though this vacancy.

We may not know – at this point – what the future holds, but we know who holds the future. May we all be aware of God's love and have a sense of His peace in the coming weeks.

Love and blessings

*Elaine Hogan*

PS. You would be very welcome to join the growing numbers at our monthly Prayer Breakfast in the Pillar Hall on Sunday 19 May at 09:30

## Congregational roll

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### Membership

Noah Nicholson 31 March

### Baptism

Jacob Fox Willcox 7 April  
Angus Duncan Palmer MacLennan 14 April



## Arty Easter

How would you display *Easter*?

How would you make Easter become arty?

Perhaps you would draw a painting or build something with Lego... perhaps you would think of doing a graffiti. The children and teenagers found unique and creative ways to show what Easter is about. Working with neon colours, natural material or tissue paper each age group reflected upon the message that changes our lives:





# A thank you from Sam...

Dear Barclay Viewforth

I still haven't recovered from the overwhelming send-off you collectively gave to me, Minnie and the children on Easter Sunday. Asked beforehand how I was managing my emotions, I said I was just concentrating on jellies, marshmallows, mountains and T-Shirts – and not thinking beyond that! I should have given more thought to beyond that for when you were finished, I was speechless! So now is my chance to say a proper thank you!



The farewell part of the service was way beyond my expectations and therefore I was caught off guard. I felt emotionally suspended somewhere between George Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life", who discovers through Clarence the Angel that his work has not been in

vain; and a stunned character pounced upon by Eamon Andrews for an out of the blue "This is Your Life" moment, with friends from the past popping up to share greetings and good wishes. Fact and a little fiction mingled together to make it a surreal, but unforgettable, moment. So thank you to everyone!



To Elaine, for not only being the Clarence and the Eamon Andrews of the piece, but also the producer and director of much of it, and to all the supporting cast who made presentations and contributions.

To Elaine again for the multimedia memory lane and photo album of "The Barclay Viewforth years". It has now displaced the Irish defeat of the All Blacks as my go-to source of inspiration!



To Jean for the framed and famed print of David Grigor’s painting of Barclay Viewforth. It depicts a vibrant relational and open community. To Robert for the potted rose which will go with us to Slateford Longstone and we promise to try and keep it alive! To Janet for the model of the church – it’ll find a prominent place on my desk – and for the bag which was subsequently much needed! To Julie for the collection of dog collars – I’ll be sure to wear one at my Induction; and now that my books are fewer these real collars will be more needed! To Ed for the Holy Kilt socks – I’ll wear them with my kilt at weddings and ceilidhs and even with my suit if need be. To Stefanie and the children for the beautiful painting of the man with the fingerprinted balloons. I’ll hang it in my vestry and smile at the memories and pray for the ministry now begun. To Moray for the kind rendering of “Sammy Boy”. At least you’ll all be spared hymns with Londonderry Air around March from now on!! And to the on screen “guests” – Victoria, Adrian, Jane, Howard, Pete, Iain, Seoras and Debbie (with Andy & Christa Toolley chipping in elsewhere); a big thank you for taking the time and making the effort.

And then, when I think it’s all over! It’s not! John steps forward with some deeply appreciated





words and two cheques totalling around £1200 gathered from all of you along with a special edition of "The Torrens Times" full of lovely comments to savour over time. But it's still not over! The Kirk Session come forward to "commission" us with prayer for the task ahead. And we leave aware of two special cakes – a football themed cake, and a coffee cup themed cake to cut and share with all the other contributions in a packed Pillar Hall.



Has anyone ever had a better send off? This thank you doesn't match the collective contribution all of you made to saying farewell, and that includes cards galore and hugs aplenty. I leave with affirmation and with a deep sense that I'm creating the space for someone to lead you further into all that God has for you in the next ten years, but also with the awareness that you have been the soil in which I have grown to become who I am today and I leave all the better equipped for the new challenge ahead. Thank you and God bless!

Sam, Minnie, Rebecca, Lisa, Andrew, Michael and Oscar



## Seeking God's Guidance for our Future

At the Kirk Session meetings over the past few months, we have been thinking about strategic issues for our congregation:

- What do we want our priorities to be for, say, the next five-to-ten years?
- How are we seeking to grow the congregation and develop Barclay Viewforth's work and witness?

The discussions began with a focus on our financial reserves, but Session felt there was a need for something broader, giving a reinvigorating and inspiring 'big picture' and seeking God's guidance for the work here.

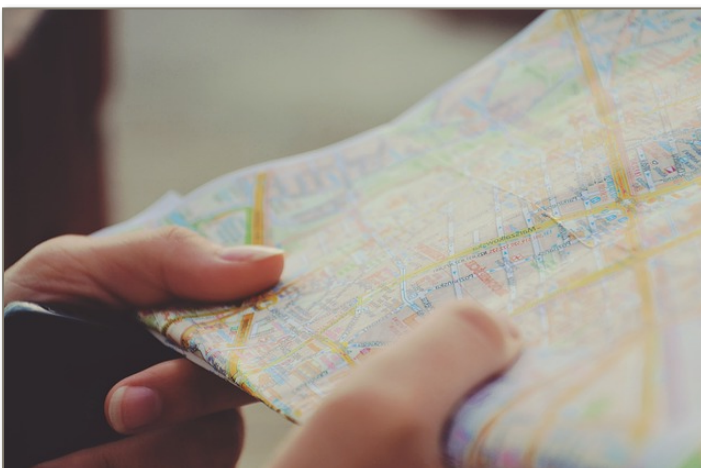
A Strategy Group was formed, with the elders on the group being Ed Bain, John Coull, Alison Edmondson, Jean MacAulay, Andrew Paterson, Hugh Paterson and John Ritchie.

This was all agreed before we knew Sam was leaving us. But, as a vacant charge, the need to be thinking about our future direction and discerning God's will seems all the more urgent.

If you were at services in early April, you would have been given the chance to comment on questions from the group:

- What do you **value most** about being part of Barclay Viewforth?
- As a church what should we do **more** of?
- What should we do **less** of?
- Any other comments

If you haven't yet been able to respond, please jot down your thoughts and e-mail them to [sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk) The group will be reviewing the responses during May.



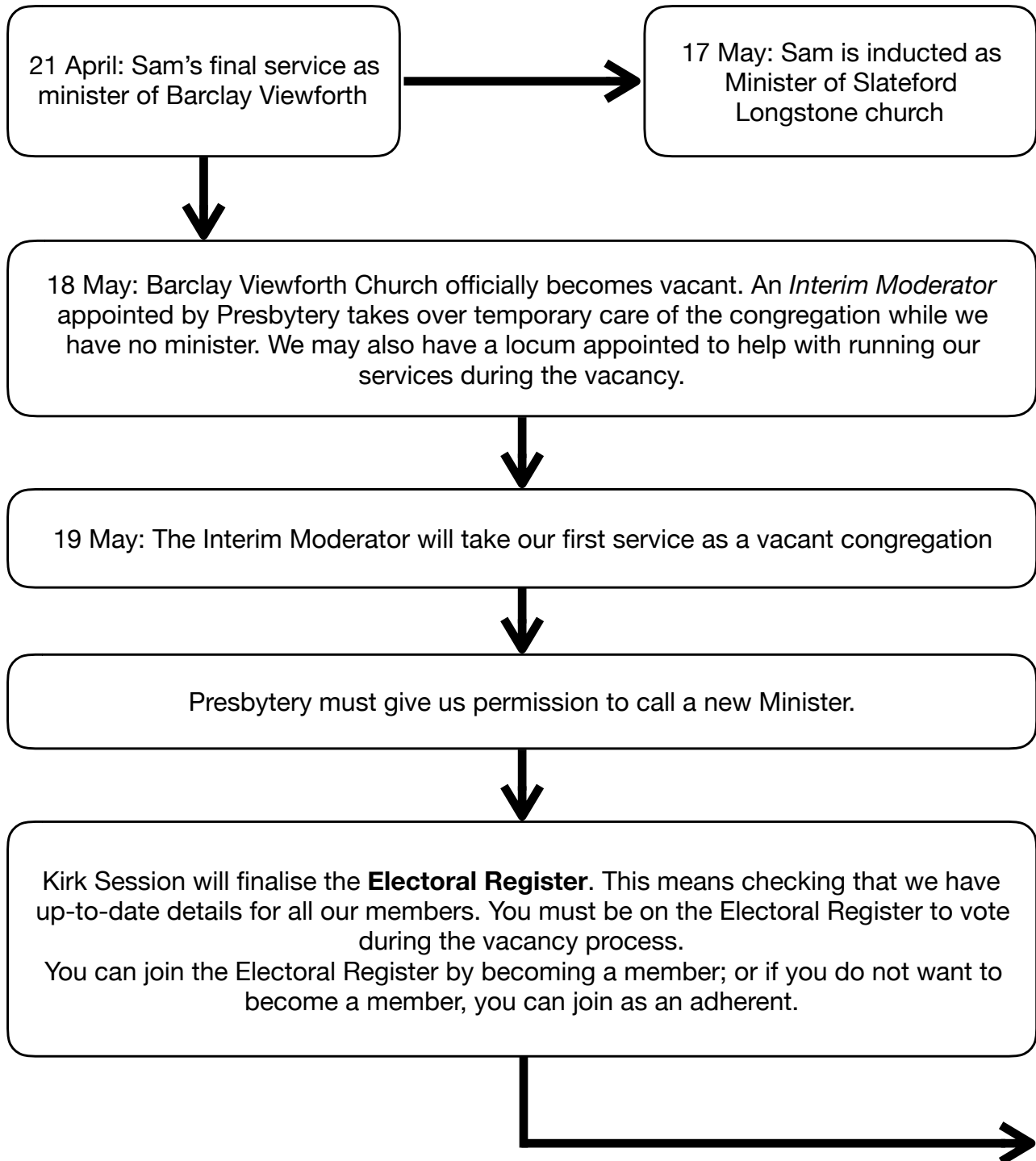
As Psalm 127 says "Without the Lord it is all in vain", and the group would certainly appreciate your prayers as it considers these issues, as would Session (and in due course the Nominating Committee) over the course of the vacancy.

*John Ritchie*

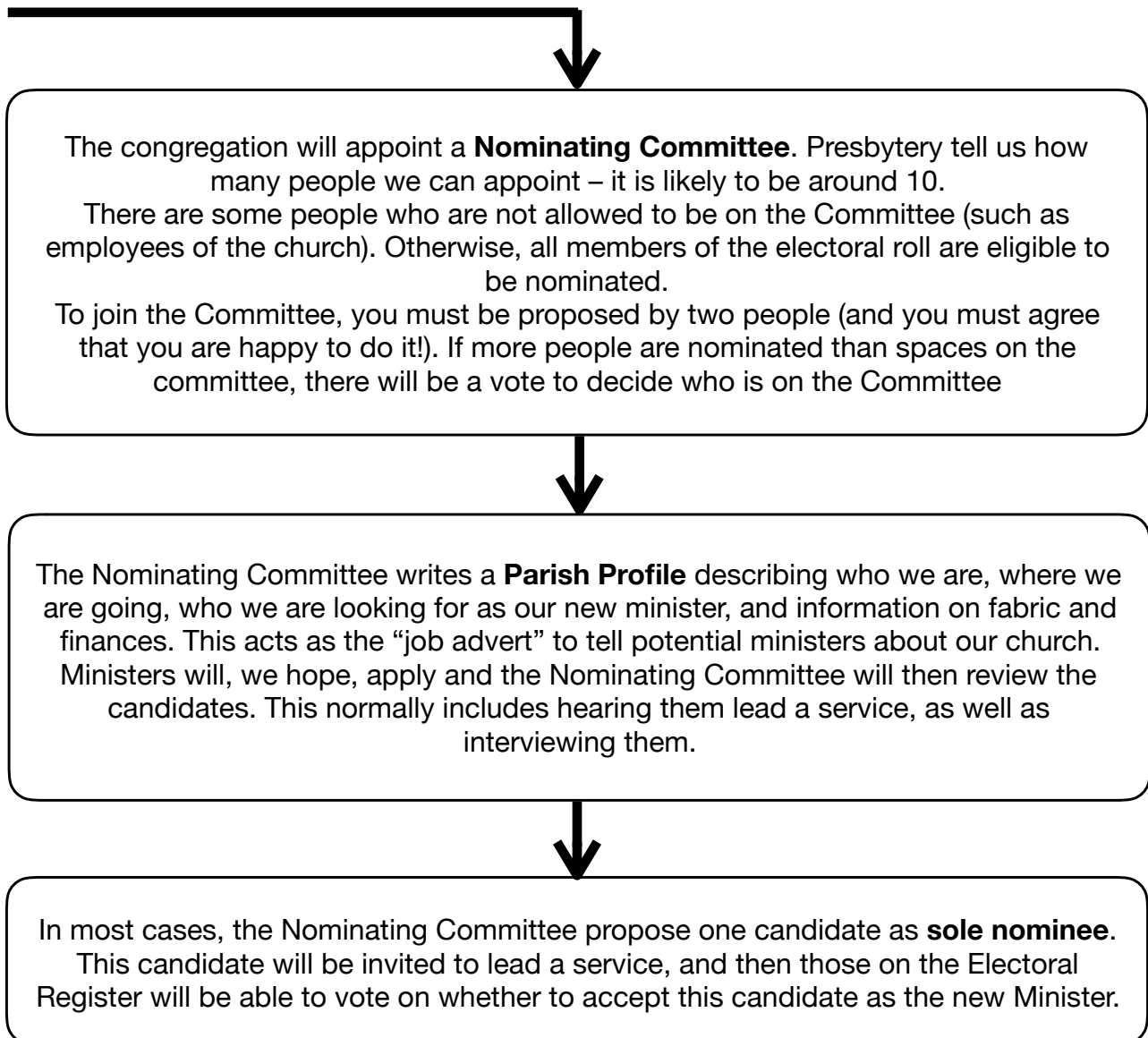
## Barclay Viewforth vacancy: what will happen next?

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If, like the editor, you have joined BVC in the last 14 years, you might not know what happens during a vacancy and how we go about appointing a new minister. This is an outline of the process, which is expected to take at least a year to complete.







You can pick up a more detailed outline of the vacancy process in the Pillar Hall or contact John Ritchie.

*Adapted by Emma Torry from an article by John Ritchie*

## Flower rota

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



	Donated by	Arranged by
5	TBC	Irene Hall
12	TBC	Karen Warwick
19	TBC	Lindsey Macleod
26	Iain Auld	TBC

## It's a small world!

With members of Barclay Viewforth Church coming from 'a the airts', it's not unusual to speak with someone in the same pew from a different part of the country or from a different country. It came as a lovely surprise, however, when at the last TCP meal one of the shopkeepers who came for the meal for the first time turned out to be from the Yemen where I had worked for 14 years. As we chatted though, not only was the link with the country, it was with the village of Sheikh 'Othman where I worked and where her father was born. And that was not the end – her father was the doctor I had worked with in the Church of Scotland hospital.

Dr Ahmed Affara was a legend. Born into a respected Muslim family, he was the first convert to the Christian faith. When the Scottish doctor returned to Scotland on furlough Ahmed stayed with him. He studied medicine in Edinburgh then went to Palestine for more experience. Here he met a nurse who became his wife and together they returned to the Yemen. Unfortunately, she found the conditions too primitive and opted for life in Edinburgh. Ahmed spent his life between the two countries.

By the time I arrived in the Yemen, Ahmed was nearing the end of his working life. At first he had had to win the respect of the local people who were very distrustful of his skills especially as he was a Christian. Not only did he gain their trust, but the villagers unofficially renamed the hospital 'the Affara hospital.' We were all happy with that. Nadia, with her husband, runs the electrical shop up from the church. She is the youngest of Ahmed's family. It was lovely to exchange shared memories of a very special man and a very special place.

When you are in the church and someone whom you don't know sits beside you, don't leave without chatting. You never know if there is a link between you. God moves in mysterious ways. It is a small world!

*Una Laidley*

## Barclay Viewforth Barbecue

On the day of last year's barbecue we worried about the weather. We'd had had a lot of it in the run-up to the big day. Most of it was surprisingly good for that time of year. And then it wobbled. The forecast was of rain. Of lightning. Of thunder. But by the morning of the big day it was all to have cleared. In the event, the weather wasn't half bad at all. But it was the people that made it memorable!



This piece is written as we enjoy another warm and sunny spell, so we hope for at least a similar outcome this year!

The festivities are almost on us – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May is the date you need in your diary, the last Sunday in the month. After the morning service, we'll be off to Vogrie Country Park, between Gorebridge and Pathhead, where we will have our own enclosed barbecue site. As before, we will try to share cars to go to Vogrie. When buying your ticket, you'll be asked if you have any space in your car, or whether you would be seeking a lift. We will then try to match up the numbers to make sure that everyone will get there (and back!). Lunch will be about 1.30pm, or when we think that most people have arrived. After a brief rest, there will be a few leisurely activities for those who are interested, or siesta time for those who are not. There are lots of things to do at Vogrie which should appeal to all ages – including an adventure play area, Vogrie House, wildlife, walks, a small train and a nine-hole golf course.

Afternoon tea will be served just after 4pm, and we'll be packing up and leaving about 5pm. We will provide food (including vegetarian) from the barbecue, along with salad and other goodies. We'll also supply tea and coffee (bringing along a mug is always helpful), together with juice for the youngsters.

The cost of the tickets is only £5.50 for adults and £3.00 for youngsters. Maps will be available on the day for drivers to help you find your way to Vogrie. For those of you who

appreciate home comforts, you might wish to bring a folding garden seat with you.



So – we hope to see you all on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Buy your tickets from the church as soon as possible, or contact the Church Office to reserve yours now!

*Barbecue Team*



## Football news

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The 2019 ECFA Easter Fives tournament saw a Barclay squad of seven prevail over St Columba's Free Church during the group stages; lose out narrowly to Ladywell Baptists; and rather more heavily to both White Lightning and defending Fives holders of the previous two competitions, St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral.

Barclay Viewforth's exit before the semi-finals on a chilly night at least had the compensation of our players and supporters heading to the warm bar at Saughton Power Leagues where an epic Champions League quarter-final between Manchester City and Spurs was being screened live. White Lightning were eventually declared deserved winners and there was a fifteen-minute interruption to the televised football while a reflective message on the importance of Easter was imparted to the nine churches league teams who were present on the night.

Back in the ECFA league, it is hoped that the five-a-side result against St Columba's will be replicated in the forthcoming elevens version of the game. From a Barclay perspective, three points would be very welcome as the side sits at the foot of the table, one point and two points respectively behind the eleventh- and tenth-placed teams, Ladywell and AC Oxfangs. Oxfangs have completed their matches, so if Barclay can conjure a win in any of the three remaining league fixtures that would ensure avoiding bottom spot. A recent high-calibre league performance against league leaders Port Seton, although resulting in a single goal defeat, gives cause to believe that this can be achieved. The challenge is compounded, however, by the remaining opponents all coming from the upper echelons of the league.

Whatever the results in the remaining fixtures, coach/manager Chris Whelan will be looking for further encouraging performances as a basis for the start of the next ECFA season come August.

It remains, of course, to acknowledge the enormous contribution of departing Barclay Viewforth minister Sam Torrens to the cause of the church's football set since its modern inception in 2007. Some of that contribution was highlighted at Sam's final service on Easter Day at Barclay Viewforth and was an occasion where a number of BV players and former players were present. Thank you on behalf of the squad and management for the church's ongoing support of its football set-up – and your ongoing prayers for the direction of both our team and the ECFA would further be much appreciated.

If you've any questions about the football or would like to get involved through watching a match (supporters are always very welcome), or partaking in a mid week training session please don't hesitate to speak to me.

*Andrew Stephenson*

## Circle the City, London

On Sunday 19 May, I am planning to take part in a Christian Aid walk in London, entitled Circle the City.

This is a family-friendly fundraising event. It is also an exciting opportunity to explore the City of London's historical locations and hidden places of worship.

People can also get involved in a variety of activities along the way – from challenges to pop-up exhibitions, and musical performances to guided tours.

The walk starts and finishes at St Mary-Le-Bow Church in Cheapside, beginning at 12 noon and there are two distance options – three miles and six miles, both starting and finishing at St Mary-le-Bow. I would like to do the six-mile walk.

Instead of doing the Forth Bridge walk this year, I will therefore be walking in London. I have sponsor forms, and will be in church from the beginning of May looking for sponsors. Last year, I managed to raise just under £300, thanks to your generosity. I hope this year I can do the same or more.

*Fiona Kennedy*



## Sing Scotland



Sing Scotland is a gathering of church leaders and musicians who seek to become better-equipped to lead their congregations in worship.

This one day conference will take place on 20 June 2019 from 08:30 to 16:00 at Charlotte Chapel

Whether or not you attend the conference, you are also invited to the evening concert at the Usher Hall at 7pm, featuring music from Keith and Kristyn Getty, and a time of devotion from John Piper. Tickets are £27.50 and available from the Usher Hall.

More information at [singscotland.com](http://singscotland.com)

*Mairi Gordon*

## Kitchen notes: salmon and broccoli quiche

As I sit here typing in the sunshine, I am contemplating what my meals might look like over the next week or so. I am finding it a challenge to make sure I have variety in what I am cooking both in terms of overall dishes and with the ingredients I use. I still heartily dislike cooking for one, so often cook two portions (or more) and then eat the leftovers later in the week – which makes variety more challenging, especially when combined with a ‘I can’t be bothered just for me’ attitude.

Quiche is one of those items which falls into the love-or-hate category for many people – I love it cold, but really dislike it hot. This month's recipe has the advantage of being both very tasty and easy to adapt for other fillings. It also has a helpful ratio of eggs to milk which means I can just use the dishes I already own – I don't need to go out and buy new ones. The recipe below is based on the bacon and leek flan from the dairy book of home management, but I generally make a smoked salmon and broccoli flan instead! The key ratio is 75ml milk for each egg used; and any veg should be cooked and drained before putting into the pastry. Other than that, experiment – and see what you can come up with. Either use a homemade shortcrust pastry shell that has been baked blind, or buy one! The recipe below is suitable for a 7-inch pie shell.

- Pastry pie case
- ½ head of broccoli broken into small florets and steamed – enough to give a good layer on the pastry
- 75-100g smoked salmon offcuts (or chopped smoked salmon)
- 2 eggs
- 150ml milk
- Grated cheese (optional)
- Salt and pepper to season

1. Put the broccoli and salmon in the pastry shell, top with grated cheese
2. Mix the milk, eggs and seasoning
3. Pour over the quiche fillings and bake at 180C for 20-25 mins until set.

If your quiche is really full, place on a baking tray so you don't need to clean the oven later!

*Linda Garside*





## Safeguarding training for volunteers

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Thank you for being a volunteer at Barclay Viewforth.

If you are disclosed to work with vulnerable adults and/or children, it is essential to attend training and also to update your training. I have received notice of a session coming up in Edinburgh.

- 18 June 2019 – 7pm at St Stephen's Comely Bank

Please tell me if you would like to go and I shall let the presbytery contact know.

*Elaine Coull*  
Safeguarding Co-Ordinator

## Afternoon Fellowship

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Our April meeting saw our now traditional talk from Sam on an aspect of the Easter Story. This year, he concentrated on the words that Jesus spoke from the Cross. Quoting from the gospels and from Acts, Sam showed that despite suffering the most horrific punishment that could be inflicted on anyone in those days, Jesus stuck to the task God had given him. He reassured the repentant thief, he made sure his mother would be looked after – and that everyone of us would have a path to salvation.

Sadly, this was the last time Sam would speak to us as our minister, but he might be enticed back to some future meeting.

Our meeting on 7 May will be a double-header. Fiona Kennedy, a member of the church, will give us a short talk on her recovery from a very dark and difficult period of her life. She was faced with not being able to work, poor health and the financial problems that followed. Fiona was then faced with the frightening news that she had breast cancer and would have to have a mastectomy. Fully recovered, she will be sharing these experiences with us.

This will be followed by a Beetle Drive. We will be following the Viewforth Convention – beetles only have four legs. It makes the games quicker and you get to meet more of the other competitors. Finally, we will have tea and cakes. Everyone is welcome to the Beetle Drive, members and non-members alike. Put it your diary now.

*Lorna Gentleman*

## Barclay Bear to the rescue

Did you know that there are activity bags for restless children in the sanctuary? No, neither did I! Not until I was kindly handed one a few weeks ago when my daughter just wouldn't stay still.

Hidden in a basket at the back of the church are small bags containing colouring pages, stickers and a small jigsaw.



So, if you are in need of something to entertain a small person, help yourself to a bag – and return it at the end of the service.

*Emma Torry*

## Connect Plus

At the Barclay Viewforth Learning Community in February, we had the idea of having our own mini version for Connect Plus – to spend time looking back, taking stock and planning ahead.

This month we put the idea into action. We crafted lots of happy faces (and a few sad ones just in case). Then we divided up the various sections of the Connect Plus evenings – craft, music, worship time, prayer time, food. We discussed how things have been going, and invited comments and suggestions as to what we could do differently, taking notes as things went along. We then used the happy faces to vote on how people felt about the various activities.

Amid hilarity and some frivolity, a lot of good suggestions came out as everyone really thought about the group and how it works. Large print song books, a joint craft activity making a poster about Connect Plus, involving everyone more in readings and prayers – these were just a few of the great ideas people had. Many happy faces were placed on the white board; only one sad face emerged, with a comment about David's acting talents, but this was taken in the spirit in which it was meant.

A little bit of dreaming was squeezed in at the end. We hope to involve as many folk as possible in a service to mark Ability Sunday in September this year. Watch this space.

*Elaine Rumney*



## Useful information

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### Minister

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

### Ministry Team

Administrator	Julie Nicholson	admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk
Pastoral Associate	Elaine Hogan	pastoral@barclayviewforth.org.uk
OLM Student	Nikki Kirkland	nkirkland@churchofscotland.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*	Contact the church office
Connect Plus*	Elaine Rumney, Chris Hogan
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

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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 fewer.

Content for the **June** issue must be submitted by 17:00 on **Tuesday 21 May**.

*Emma Torry, Editor*





Wed	1	19:30	Knit 2 Together	Pillar Hall
Thur	2	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Tues	7	19:00	Connect Plus	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	Kirk Session	
Mon	13	19:00	Pastoral Assistants	
Thur	16	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Fri	17	19:00	Sam Torrens inducted as minister of Slateford Longstone	
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>	
Tues	21	19:00	Connect Plus	Pillar Hall
Sun	26	11:00	Kids Service	Halls
Sun	26	PM	Church BBQ	<i>Vogie</i>
Thur	30	19:30	Choir	

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



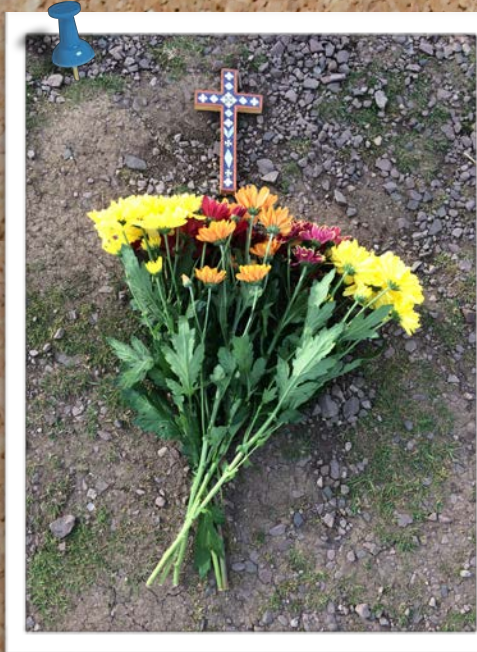
Sat	1		Meadows Festival	<i>Meadows</i>
Tues	4	19:00	Connect Plus	Pillar Hall
Sat	8	09:30	Kirk Session Conference	Pillar Hall
Thu	13	19:00	Choir	Pillar Hall
Fri	14	TBC	Concert	Sanctuary
Mon	17	19:00	Pastoral Assistants meeting	Pillar Hall
<b>Tues</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17:00</b>	<b>July/August Magazine Deadline</b>	
Tues	18	19:00	Connect Plus	Pillar Hall
Thu	20	08:30	Sing Scotland Conference	<i>Charlotte Chapel</i>
Thu	20	19:00	Sing Scotland Concert	<i>Usher Hall</i>
Sun	23	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Pillar Hall
Sun	23	11:00	Kids Service, Quest presentations	Sanctuary
Thu	27	19:00	Choir	Sanctuary
Sun	30		Gillespie Crescent communion	Gillespie Crescent
Sun	30	11:00	Communion	Sanctuary
Sun	30	12:15	Kids Picnic	Meadows

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





Happy Easter from the top of the hill!!



Flowers laid on Blackford Hill



Baptising Jacob

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



Angus and family, Sam's last official baptism