



December 2019

Barclays Carol Service

Alex Oakes

*And the Word became flesh
and lived among us, and we
have seen his glory, the glory
as of a father's only son, full
of grace and truth.*

John 1:14



Colleagues are invited to join members of the
Group Executive Committee for a carol service

Date: Monday 9 December 2019

Time: 12pm

Place: Southwark Cathedral, near London Bridge.

Each year the Christian Forum writes the programme for the annual **Barclays Carol Service** in partnership with Southwark Cathedral, with speakers from the Group Executive Committee.

The service is led by the Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, Dean, and this year, readers include members from our Christian Forum reading, 'Unity in the Body of Christ' from Ephesians 4:1-17.

The service will feature a selection of carols and performances from Barclaybrass and the Southwark Cathedral choir.

Please do take the time to join the service and help us celebrate the birth of Christ.

Mulled wine, sandwiches and minced pies will be served at the end of the service.



Recent Events

The City Lights are On – “Christ our Light” | 10 October

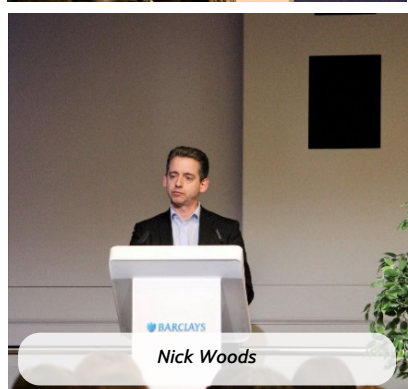
Edd Bodman

We were encouraged by our annual Christian Conference in October with a really good turnout (around 180 people from Barclays and the firms around about Canary Wharf) and some excellent speakers. It has sparked quite a few conversations over the last few weeks and was a great opportunity to meet other Christians across Barclays more broadly than our weekly studies! The theme of the Conference was Christ our Light and we started by looking at *John 8:12* “*I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of Life*”. The context of the verse is a Jewish Feast where great lights would have been lit and placed in the courtyard where Jesus was standing, a reminder to keep our eyes on the true light and the power that is available – if we are following Christ it is possible for us to be in darkness!

We then looked at *walking in this light*, God does not make a difference between the secular and spiritual and we were encouraged to listen to what God is saying to us in our everyday walk – do we like Daniel regularly make time to talk with God about the everyday things of life? Lastly, we touched on our testimony and *letting this light, hope and peace shine out of us*. A Christian psychiatrist gave us some really interesting lines to take away with four questions to ask ourselves in the morning (perhaps when I am struggling to get out of bed):

1. When was I saved? Before the foundation of the world
2. What does God think of me? He loves me infinitely as much as he ever will
3. Why is today going to be a great day? Because I get more opportunities to be like Christ
4. Why is tomorrow going to be a great day? Because I am one day closer to being with him

That’s a challenge, for me at least - what an incredible outlook and way to start the day!



Media Corner

Greetings saints in Christ!

Year end is almost upon us and, from a personal point of view, it feels as if most of 2019 has passed by in a flash! The occasions we have had have been powerful and uplifting.

October 2019 was the return of the “City Lights Are On” annual event, hosted by Barclays with participation from 8 different speakers. The format was great with the first half of the event being blessed with contributions from 4 different speakers and the second half of the event a lively panel discussion.

Often, when working on these types of events, it’s not possible to take in all that is being presented or discussed when focused on making sure the technical and logistical aspects of the event are running to plan. However, this time it was possible to get some ‘golden nuggets’ from each of the speakers and I left better than when I arrived.

The event reminded me that we called to let our light shine always, whether in church, at home or at our place of work and we may encounter challenges to do this. Some may be embarrassed, fearful, shy or unsure about doing this, but if we are faithful God will take us to the next level.

I would encourage others to get involved with the Christian Forum as we try to meet the huge task of bringing/maintaining the love of Jesus, in Barclays, in numerous, wonderful ways.

Neils Ribeiro



The Forum's 24/7 Virtual Prayer Room

Prayer Points for Barclays

2019 Prayer Call

1. For God's vision and purpose to be at the heart of all that happens within Barclays.
2. For the Christian heritage of Barclays' Quaker founders to be strengthened and continue to bear fruit.
3. For the Barclays values – respect, integrity, service, excellence, stewardship – to embody all we do.
4. For God's peace and hope to saturate every workplace globally.
5. For strength for those in stressful and demanding roles, particularly senior leaders carrying the weight of company direction and other strategic decisions.
6. For the CEO and Chief Executive Committee to lead with courage and wisdom, and to be energised by their roles within Barclays.
7. For the wellbeing, guidance and support for those in very senior roles so they do not carry the burden alone; for timely refreshing through leave and family support.
8. For managers at every level to build, strengthen and support each team member effectively.
9. For every colleague to feel valued and empowered, resulting in a 'can do' approach.
10. For colleagues to take pride in their role in Barclays and seek to be the best they can be.
11. For a healthy work/ life balance at every level; for greater awareness and use of dynamic working to restore and promote health and wellbeing. *Acts 17:28 "In him we live and move and have our being."*
12. For strengthening of family relationships and quality time together.
Psalms 133 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard, Even Aaron's beard, Coming down upon the edge of his robes. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing – life forever...."
13. For relationships across Barclays to be genuine, built on empathy and trust.
1 Peter 3:8 "Be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."
14. For colleagues to be solution-focussed and divinely inspired with innovative ideas. *Daniel 2.*
15. For the continuation of stakeholder relationships to be built on integrity and respect.
16. For Barclays to continue to impact positively on individuals and communities.
17. For wisdom in decision making, particularly when considering customers/clients, and developing new products.
18. For an ethical approach to saturate all our market activities, and for God's blessing for doing things the right way.
19. For an approach that is counter-cultural to 'city' business and puts the vulnerable and weak on our agenda for additional care and attention.
20. For a genuinely customer-centric ethos across Barclays.
21. For increasing commitment by colleagues to environmental concerns and other stewardship issues already being promoted by Barclays.
22. For Barclays to be acclaimed in the media for our genuine desire and action to make a significant positive difference in every sphere in which we do business.
23. For the heart of every Christian in Barclays to be stirred up to serve and bless our colleagues with the grace and compassion we have experienced through Jesus.
24. To encourage the Christian Forum at Barclays to nurture and strengthen each believer to be salt and light in their workplace.
25. For restoration and revival of the global 'church' – God's family – across Barclays.
26. For Barclays to flourish and prosper in a Godly way.

Sally Patmore

About the Christian Forum

The Christian Forum is a group dedicated to contributing to the success and life of Barclays, and to promote and facilitate fellowship, pastoral care and spiritual support for Christians in the workplace. We want all colleagues to feel confident about bringing their whole self to work. At the Christian Forum we are excited to show the love of Christ in all we do and we are passionate about striving for excellence in all areas of our time at work, ensuring that the legacy we leave upholds the value of stewardship – to leave things better than we found them.

We've been around in one form or another since 1978, and our members are drawn from pretty-much every church background, and can be found across Barclays, both organisationally and globally. We're a diverse people culturally and ethnically, and this brings richness and depth

to our meetings, which are characterised by our oneness together in Christ.

We're inclusive, welcoming colleagues of any faith and none: our meetings and activities are open to everyone working in Barclays workplaces, whether employed by Barclays directly or indirectly (e.g. agency workers). We provide opportunities for colleagues to find out about the Christian faith, to enjoy sharing life together, and to explore the outworking of their faith in the financial services industry in the 21st century.

We promote Christian values in the workplace – which underpin the Barclays values. It's great to also see the alignment with the principles of Barclays' Quaker founders, which were "Honesty, integrity, and plain-dealing".

Global Updates

New York

Lucy Sierociuk

The Christian Forum – New York Chapter kicked off its first ever viewing of the Alpha Film Series in September. It has gone extremely well, and has started some great conversations. We are currently exploring options to become an officially recognized chapter of the Embrace Network. We are so grateful for the community we have here in New York and hope to see it continue to grow."



Whippany

Sherwin Garcia

Some colleagues started serving in "New Hope Ministry". This ministry serves New York's homeless population. We bought care packages (socks, soap, deodorants etc.) and donated winter clothes and clothes for job interviews. We meet twice a month for Bible Study and celebrated Thanksgiving dinner with them. We will also give Christmas gifts and bus them to church for our yearly Christmas Show.

Singapore

Tiffany Loh

Completion of the Genesis Bible Study

For 14 weeks, the Singapore Christian Forum members gathered together every Wednesday to study the book of Genesis. Each session was extremely fruitful and filled with revelations. We gained deeper understanding of the creation, our purpose, the fall and how God blesses the faithful heroes like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph to fulfill His will and promises.

Our Creator is a promise keeping God, and we want to remember that He keeps giving us new beginnings.

Farewell lunch for Caris, Lihsia and Mervin

In October, we bid farewell to our beloved Caris and Mervin, as they leave the organization. We are grateful for their friendship, their servanthood spirit and unceasing encouragements. We particularly appreciate Mervin, who by faith and trust has created this forum and now leaves behind a legacy that will continue to touch lives.

In November, our lovely Lihsia started her maternity leave. Lihsia's heart of evangelism and welcoming spirit has pivoted the launch of the Alpha sessions, which provided an open platform for colleagues of all religious background to hear and ask questions about the Christian faith. We pray for God's protection to be upon Lihsia and baby, and joy to her family during this exciting season.

As much as we are sad to see them leave, we are equally excited to see how God will continue to bless and use them as the salt and light for His glory.



Fellowship at Gaik's home

To celebrate the successful completion of the Alpha sessions, the ever generous Gaik has graciously opened her beautiful home for a time of fellowship over scrumptious food and drinks.

Truly as Hebrews 10:25 teaches us, it is important not neglecting to meet together and encourage one another - it was a wonderful Saturday afternoon getting to know each other better and meeting up with members who have left Barclays and hearing how God has continued to do wondrous things in their lives.

May we continue to consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

Ongoing/Upcoming events

Barclays Christian Forum Fellowship
Every Wednesday
12:00pm – 1:30pm

Christmas lunch and movie screening
Thursday 12 December
12:00-2:00pm

Alpha Ministry
Dates to be confirmed
2020

To Mervin,

Thank you for all your hard work throughout the years of workplace fellowship and as part of the Christian Forum in Barclays, and for running with the torch of light, God bless you for being faithful. My prayer for you is that you will always be covered with grace and the favor of God upon your life.

Caris thank you too for being part of the team, create trails of goodness as you move forward and for our dearly beloved sister Lihsia enjoy motherhood, children are a heritage from the Lord.

Regional updates

Manchester

Olusayo Phillips

The Lord has indeed increased us in Manchester in this last quarter of the year and we give Him the glory for this.

We are currently working on setting up our formal structure (meeting frequency, content, timings) and we expect this to be in place by early next year.

At the moment, we meet fortnightly to discuss and share ideas on how best to

move the fellowship forward and have a positive impact.

We have been introduced to the local business professionals' Christian fellowship in Manchester and we will be having a monthly lunchtime fellowship with them.

Some of the meetings will be held on our premises and it is open for other members of staff to attend.

We have a SharePoint and we invite anyone interested in joining us to click [here](#) and be a part of what the Lord is doing.

We are extremely grateful to God for what He is doing in our midst, and we are looking forward to the greater things He will do with loads of excitement!

Radbroke

Paul McCabe

The Radbroke Christian Fellowship is finishing a study on Women of the Bible. This focused on characters such as Ruth, Esther, Hannah and Naaman's servant. The group has been well attended in recent months with around 7 regular attendees, but a wider group of about 12.

The annual shoebox appeal ran from 11 to 21 November, on site at Radbroke Hall; Teams4U is the supported shoebox charity again this year. This year's Carol Service will be held on 12 December.

Northampton

Sally Patmore/Hilary Hodge

We are studying the final chapter of 1 Thessalonians, which is full of practical guidance on living out our Christian faith. As Paul encouraged those first Christians he wrote to in Thessalonians to be dedicated and

focused on God, to grow in faith and to encourage one another as a church, so we can be encouraged to live our lives dedicated to God and to live as he would want us to live and to encourage others in their faith.

Planning is underway for our Carol Concert on 17 December, which will feature the Northampton Upbeats choir and a local primary school choir.



Light of the World

Glasgow

Tim Andersen

Embrace Scotland celebrated Scottish Interfaith Week



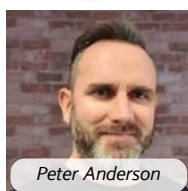
Established by Interfaith Scotland in 2004, Scottish Interfaith Week provides an opportunity for individuals, local interfaith groups and faith communities across the country to plan events that bring people together to promote dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse religious communities.



Tuesday 12 November |

Alpha: Introduction to Christianity

Peter Anderson introduced Alpha. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome. All of the sessions have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.



Peter Anderson

Wednesday 13 November | Bible Study |

Launch of weekly sessions in Aurora, | 12.00 to 13.00

Bible Read Through offers a great opportunity to get plugged in with your Christian colleagues, forge friendships, share prayers and grow in your knowledge, understanding and love of the Bible. Simply put, Bible Read Through groups are a place where you can be a disciple so that you can then go out and make Disciples.

Thursday 14 November | Henna Artist

Following on from our celebration of Diwali, we were delighted to welcome a Henna artist to Tay House from 12.30 to 15.30. The artist provided on hand designs to colleagues free of charge.

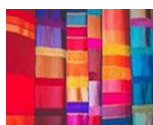


Friday 15 November | Prayer & Worship |

Launch of weekly sessions in Princes House, 8.15 to 8.45

Prayer is the way in which Christians believe we can speak directly to God, we bring our thanks and our worries to him in this time, as well as asking for help and guidance.

All are welcome to join, even if you have never prayed before, or you are unsure what Christian prayer really consists of.



Friday 15 November

Meditation Session

Embrace, Be Well and the Reach networks were delighted to welcome Inner Space to Barclays. Inner Space provided a history of meditation, how it has evolved, and the religious origins/importance of meditation. The session ended with a seated meditation.



Weekly activities in London ...

Monday Praise and Worship

Khoria Stewart

Our Monday meeting is a way of praising and honouring God for bringing us again into a new week. Praise is the most humbling offering we can do in the presence of God, for all His benefits towards us.

- † To seek His help and favour in all difficult matters relating to our day to day life and work affairs.
- † To continue guiding all our colleagues in ways that is good and pleasant to each other.
- † To pray for the decisions the heads of teams and individuals have to make on a daily basis.

We start with an opening prayer, then go into high praise and worship, then share the Word from a chosen passage of scripture and close in prayers.

The worship leaders should facilitate in raising worship and praise songs before the Word, followed by testimonies and thanksgiving, which are willingly shared for encouragement of the faith. They should aim to hand over to the facilitating lead by 12:45pm.

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." (John 4:23)
[Monday's praise program](#)



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Hideyoshi Maeda

The Tuesday Morning Bible study group will continue with our aims which are to:

Carefully
read the
Bible

Seek to faithfully
listen to God
through His
Word (the Bible)

Respond
in
prayer

Encourage one
another as
Christians in
the workplace

Tuesday 08:00–08:45 | Multi-faith room | Level 1, 1CP



Tuesday Bible Fellowship

Ian Collyer

How can we respond to a God who loves us incredibly and who, through Christ, has paid the ultimate price for our sin? We believe the Bible has the answers and we are eager for the Holy Spirit to reveal them to us as we study and discuss his powerful word. After focusing on God's heart and character, we have moved on to discuss our grateful response as Christians: in prayer, discipleship, repentance and mission, as well as other aspects of Christian living. For Q4 we will be studying the book of Acts, learning from the account of the early church and how the Holy Spirit uses ordinary people like us to achieve extraordinary things for God. Please do pop by if you are in Canary Wharf and let us know if you want to be added to our mailing list!



Wednesday Bible Breakfast Fellowship

Thabiso Ndebele

Welcome to the Bible Breakfast Fellowship (BBF) Wednesday morning dial-in. We are excited for you to join us on your journey and start your day light ...

The BBF focuses on catering to colleagues who may not have the ability to attend our Christian Forum activities during the course of the working day. We study the article of the day from our selected daily devotional word, while discussing how we can practically put into action what we have learnt.

Dial in from 8.15 am to 8.45am, listen and share the word with us right at your desk, while you are travelling to your destination or in the actual room! Feel free to email or follow the [link](#) to find out more.

Wednesday 08:15–08:45 | Room 14 | Level 10, 1CP
Dial-in: +44-203-478-5289 | 957 533 786



Thursday Prayer (Investment Bank)

Dionne Abrahams

We still meet every Thursday from 10:30 to 11:00. Anyone across Barclays is welcome to join and to send prayer requests.

Contact [Christian Forum](#)



Thursday Praise & Thanksgiving

Khoria Stewart

Jesus clearly showed us that He paid attention to everything. . . like when He prayed and healed 10 lepers and only one turned back to thank Him.

When we come together to give praise and thanksgiving, it is to say . . . we are grateful to God for keeping us throughout our days at work and for blessing us with favours. Thanksgiving is also showing of gratitude for His goodness and mercies towards us".

We start off with an opening prayer and continue into praise and thanksgiving songs and melodies. This is followed by the Word from the Worship leader, then by brief discussions and contributions from individuals who are led to express what they believe to be from the heart of the Father. We share testimonies and end with prayers.

Worship leaders should aim to hand over to the facilitating lead by 12:45pm.

"Give thanks to the God of heaven. For His lovingkindness (graciousness, mercy, and compassion) endures forever." (Psalm 136:26, AMP)

[Thursday's praise program](#)



5NC Christian Fellowship

Khalia Newell



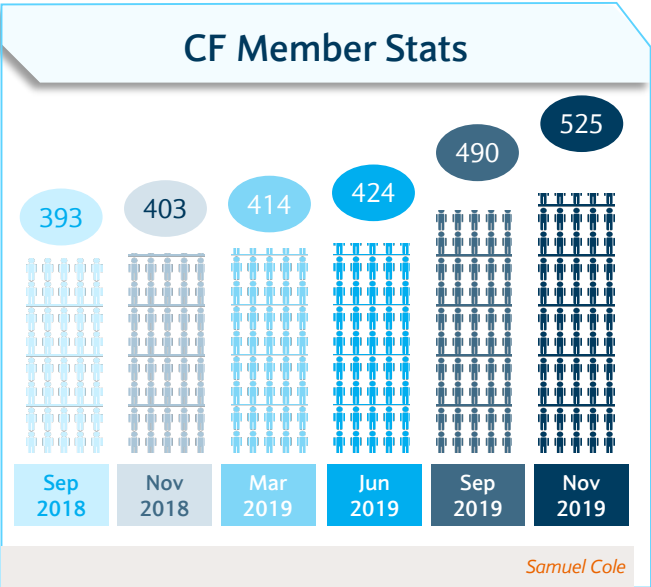
Wednesday Bible Study

The fellowship at 5NC regularly runs the Bible Studies on Wednesdays. We have studied new topics throughout the year, which continues to challenge all individuals on their walk and encourages us all to have a thorough understanding of the scriptures.

Friday sessions

These sessions are a time of pleading with God both through personal prayer as well as sharing of prayer requests corporately with one another. We have continued throughout the year with an emphasis on hearing the voice of the Lord personally in our day to day walks as this remains the lifeline of every believer.

Links	Embrace forums and links	Recent CF events	
Transform Work UK newsletter St. Peter's Barge The Halftime Institute – Equipping Leaders (Duncan Sanders) Kingdom Connections Communities (Eugene Ajayi)	Embrace has the following forums: The Black Professionals Forum Asian Professionals Forum Muslim Forum Jewish Forum	Christian Forum Conference <i>October 2019</i> Singapore External Marketplace Talk & Alpha Away Day <i>August 2019</i>	Easter Event “The Resurrection” <i>April 2019</i> Christian Forum Breakfast with Nick and Tim – <i>February 2019</i>
<i>Khoria Stewart</i>	<i>Khoria Stewart</i>	<i>Khoria Stewart</i>	



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned

Isaiah 9:2 NIV

Join the Team

The Christian Forum Steering Committee is looking for volunteers.

Contact the team at Christians@barclays.com if you are interested.

Please remember to share this with your colleagues.

Save the date

Contact us for the [Christian Forum Calendar](#) giving details of events and workplace fellowships near you.

Join us

If you wish to sign up to our mailing list or unsubscribe please do so [here](#)

As part of a harmonisation of our distribution groups and in order to ensure full compliance with GDPR, please re-confirm your subscription status by emailing Christians@barclays.com.

Samuel Cole



Christian Forum team at Embrace Appreciation event

