

## Weekly Newsletter: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### Reflection: The Queen - a life well lived

By Ross Hendry, CEO of CARE (taken from <https://care.org.uk/news/2022/09/the-queen-a-life-well-lived>)

We mourn, we grieve, we acknowledge our sadness. But we also give thanks for a life well-lived; for a remarkable life of faithful Christian service in the public square. And, if you forgive the jarring familiarity when it comes to speaking of the Queen, we give thanks that a sister in Christ has been taken home.

Over the coming days we will hear hundreds of voices, hear hours of commentary, and read thousands of lines about the Queen. I am certain they will reflect on her qualities, and of virtues often undervalued and overlooked in today's world.

The Queen's qualities were those of humility, service, self-control, gentleness, faithfulness, patience, and joy. They were spiritual fruits, rooted in and fed by her faith.

To appreciate the Queen is to appreciate a character and a life that were guided by God's word, inspired by Jesus, and shaped by the Spirit.

In what was to be her last public appearance on Tuesday we saw the queen carrying out her constitutional duty, commissioning her 15th Prime Minister.

Two things struck me about the photos of her meeting Liz Truss.

First the incredible sense of service to the end.

Within the constraints of her role, she was, in many ways, a servant leader to the nations and people she pledged to serve. Her Platinum Jubilee statement reiterated the commitment she first made when she was just 21, to "remain committed to serving you (the people) to the best of my ability."

Even in her obvious frailty her vocation was to serve others. When people commend her sense of duty they must also acknowledge that it was born from a faithfulness to her lifelong calling, to reflect and model her Lord and Saviour.



The second aspect that struck me was her smile.

Despite, or perhaps because of, her frailty, it was striking.

Many will comment that she 'looked happy'. I expect it was not happiness but something better: joy.

Like many of us the Queen, over her 96 years, suffered good times and bad. Her trials and times of difficulty were played out on a stage that most of us will never be able to comprehend, but in some of the more intimate photos of her over the years, you can perceive a strong sense of joy.

As a Christian I can identify with these elements of the Queen's life, and it is why I can also rejoice and give thanks in the midst of sadness.

Her family should be in our prayers right now.

While they are expected to carry out their public and constitutional duties, her family will be sad and grieving. Some may have the reassurance and hope of a faith they shared with the Queen, but others will not, and all should be in our prayers over the coming days.

Although not our mother, grandmother, or family matriarch, we too perhaps will shed a tear and acknowledge our sadness.

Yet we can also give thanks for a faithful life well lived.

We grieve and rejoice. We give thanks for her unashamed witness, service, and joy, undoubtedly rooted in her faith and relationship with her Saviour. We pray for ourselves: that like our sister in Christ, we will also be inspired by radical love and miraculous grace to serve others and reflect a deep joy.

I think she, in humility, would be happy with such a legacy.

## Prayer Meeting – this Wednesday



We're looking forward to having Craig Anderson with us at the prayer meeting this Wednesday at 7pm. Craig is leading the Free Church of Scotland church plant in Galashiels.

Craig and his family moved to the borders over the summer and the church plant is in its early stages. Come along and hear more – contact Liz ([Liz@holyroodevangelical.org](mailto:Liz@holyroodevangelical.org)) if you would like the Zoom codes and don't already receive them.

## Men's Discipleship – this Thursday

Joe is running a Men's Discipleship Group for eight weeks from this Thursday (15<sup>th</sup> September). Meet at 10.30am in the church and coffee will be provided. Joe will be using hymns as the basis of the discussion.

## Baby and Toddler Group

There will be no Baby and Toddler Group next Monday (19<sup>th</sup>) in light of the Queen's funeral.

## Scottish Women's Bible Convention – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October

The Scottish Women's Bible Convention is 'a day of faithful Bible teaching by women for women with the Lord Jesus as our focus.' It is taking place in Charlotte Chapel on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 10am until 3pm.

Rachel Sloan will be speaking from Ephesians and Romans on the theme on adopted as daughters. More details are available [here](#) and get your tickets [here](#).



## OMF Scotland Tour – Be Exalted

# Be Exalted

Edinburgh | Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Oct | 10.30am-2pm

**"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow..." (Phil 2:9-10a)**

We live in a time that could easily be characterised by crisis. Conflict, climate, Covid and the cost of living has brought turmoil that both unites and divides humanity. The strong seek self-preservation while the weak struggle to eat. But these are also days of opportunity. Technology, immigration, creation care and the rapid growth of the church in the global south open the door for fresh and exciting approaches to sharing the good news of Jesus across our streets and across the world.

Join us in Edinburgh to hear how God's people are serving the unreached billions of East Asia and how we, in Scotland, can unite with the global church to proclaim the good news of Jesus until every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

### Speakers:

- James and Kirsty – recently returned from serving unreached peoples in East Asia since 2006. They have experienced God's faithfulness through earthquakes, police detentions, violent protests and much more!
- Lorna Ferguson – has been in Japan with OMF for nearly 25 years and currently serves with the Field Leadership Team.
- Gerard & Sarah Charles – served for 10 years among Muslims in East Asia, and are currently as the OMF Area Reps for North England
- Sarah Melbourne - OMF worker serving children in Taiwan

**Venue:** Holyrood Evangelical Church, 121 Montgomery St, Edinburgh

**Hot and cold drinks will be provided. Please bring your own packed lunch.**

**No booking required. No charge for entry.**

**The first hour of this event will be live-streamed.**

## Ladies' Breakfast – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November



Save the date! We're excited to draw all the ladies in the church together for a time of fellowship, teaching and prayer on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November from 9.30-11am.

We're hoping to have these once a term and Norma Shippin will be our first speaker. We'll also have a testimony, book review, time to pray and our breakfast together. Speak to Anna Barnard or Liz Scott if you have any questions.

## Edinburgh Theological Seminary – The Saturday Course



'Open to anyone, the Saturday Courses are an excellent way of gaining more than would normally be offered in church on Sunday whilst being less demanding than a full-time theological course.'

One Saturday a month, from September through to April, three lectures are delivered by visiting speakers. These lectures, which are also available to access online, are specially designed to stretch the Christian mind and deepen an understanding of God's word'.

The lectures will be delivered from the Chalmers Hall at ETS from 10am to 3.15pm. This lecturers for this year are Alex MacDonald, Andy Hunter and Cory Brock. More information can be found [here](#) or speak to Liz Scott.

## Book Group

A group of women from HEC and other congregations get together monthly to enjoy a discussion about the Christian books. Each June we pick the books that we will read over coming session and then get together on the last Saturday of the month to share thoughts and insights and exchange views on the book we have read.



For the past 2 years most of our meetings have been on Zoom of course but our last few meetings have been in person and it has been great to be able to do that again.

The new session of the Book Group starts on 24 September and our first meeting will have a slightly different format to our usual one. We are planning that each member of the group will share their recommendations for a good read so that we can broaden our reading horizons.

If you are interested in finding out more please speak to Anncris Roberts.

## Church Calendar

For your prayers and info –

- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting on Zoom at 7pm with an update from Craig Anderson (Galashiels church plant)
- Thursday: Men's Discipleship Group at 10.30am in the church
- Sunday:
  - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching. Please contact Liz by 12 noon on Thursday if you would like a socially distant seat.
  - Joint Youth Event with Grace Church Leith – 5.30 to 6.30pm at Grace Church Leith (3 Shrub-hill Walk).
  - Equip at 6pm



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

Incorporated as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Scottish Charity Number SCO44820