

Weekly Newsletter: 10th October 2022

Reflection: God Comes Close

By Ed Welch (taken from <https://www.ccef.org/god-comes-close/>)

“I am with you” is the gift to anxious people. Our worries usually imply that we need someone—the right protector, the right fixer—who is close and is for us. Only those who know Jesus actually have that someone. The challenge is that God’s closeness does not always seem to matter. Our anxieties want relief now, and God’s promises do not guarantee an easier life. He promises a full and abundant life, not an easy one. Confidence in Jesus does not act like a sedative.

Then, of course, there is the matter of the Lord not being available to our senses as flesh and blood. He is with you, but you have to rely on the sound of his voice in Scripture. As we listen, we come to know that Jesus is the hope of humanity, and his closeness is our only hope during fears and anxieties.

If repetition reveals enthusiasm, then the Lord is quite enthusiastic for you to know that he is close. God was close to his people before Jesus, but he is infinitely closer now that the forgiveness of sins has been accomplished and the Spirit brings us into Christ. And he is pleased to keep telling you.

Do not be afraid, for I am with you. (Gen 26:24)

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. (Deut 31:6)

Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. (Isa 49:14–16)

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matt 28:20)

The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything. (Phil 4:5–6)

These are a fraction of his reassurances. Though you might glaze over after hearing just a few of them, the Hebrew people heard something much more. In their language, repetition enhances the message. It charges the words with new power and importance. And it is meant to do that for us as well. By repeatedly telling us that God is near, Scripture invites us to focus, listen, imagine, believe.

*The LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
(Ps 121:5–6)*

He is close enough to shade you from the sun. He is actually pleased to be close. His closeness has been his plan from before creation, and he will carry it out.

A Thank You from Heather and Family

It is with grateful hearts we would like to thank our HEC church family for all that was done to ease our sorrow in losing Peter. You have not only supported us in prayer since his health deteriorated gradually over three years but you have also looked after us so well since God called him home on the 17th of September just over three weeks ago.

Thank you for expressing your sympathy in letters, cards, emails and in flowers. We were so glad of gifts of meals when no one felt like shopping or cooking. The meals seem to expand to feed double the number! Visitors asked repeatedly about the food. It was such a good witness to so many that the church really did care in its provision for our every need in this way.

The Thanksgiving Service was all that we could have hoped for and more. To have so many local friends and folks from a distance in time and place was amazing. We loved the music, the hymns and are grateful to Norma and the Music Group for orchestrating it all so beautifully. The congregational singing was roof raising and much commented on. 'Peter' s boys' at the AV desk did him proud! Thanks John and Mark! Behind the scenes people played their part from setting up to cleaning the sanctuary. To those who were on door duty and welcomed visitors setting the tone for what was to come we say ' Thank you! '

There's a big gap in our lives now but not the gap it might have been had Peter never committed his life to the Lord. Everything else from that point on, led me in widowhood, to have all the blessings of family and church family. I could ask for no more.

Thank you

Heather

Harvest Appeal



Every year, at this time, we have our Harvest Appeal in aid of Tearfund. If you wish to give to help support this important work you can do so via the church bank account (details [here](#)) or in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Please clearly mark your gift "Harvest".

Alternatively you can give direct to Tearfund [here](#). Thank you!

Tearfund Quiz – Saturday 19th November

On Saturday 19th November, churches, communities and groups from every corner of the country will take part in the Tearfund Big Quiz Night – and HEC will be joining in.

We will be running the quiz, starting at 7.30pm, in the church building. Each household can take part in 6 rounds and also hear a bit about the work Tearfund are involved in.

As we are giving to Tearfund via our Harvest Appeal we will be promoting the work of a Tearfund as part of the evening, and in the meantime encourage you to give to the Harvest Appeal.

Please let Alex MacDonald know to register your interest in taking part but feel free to just join on the evening.

Litter Pick Up @ Montgomery Street Park

Our next litter pick up with the Friends of Montgomery Street Park will be this Sunday (16th October) after the morning service. Come along and help serve the community in this way!

Accommodation Request

Vivi (a Chinese student who worships with us) is looking for more permanent accommodation. Please contact Alasdair (alasdair.roberts@blueyonder.co.uk) or AnnCRIS (AnnCRIS@gmail.com) if you can help or know of anyone with a room or flat she could rent. Thank you!

Clothes Swap – Friday 28th October

The global fashion industry is in the top five main polluters worldwide, how can we become sustainable clothes shoppers? Ps & Gs church (on York Place) are putting on an evening of cheese and wine (vegan/non-alcoholic options available!), with an opportunity for parents/carers to swap clothes- baby, child and maternity clothes. It is on Friday 28th October at 7.30 pm – you can sign up [here](#).

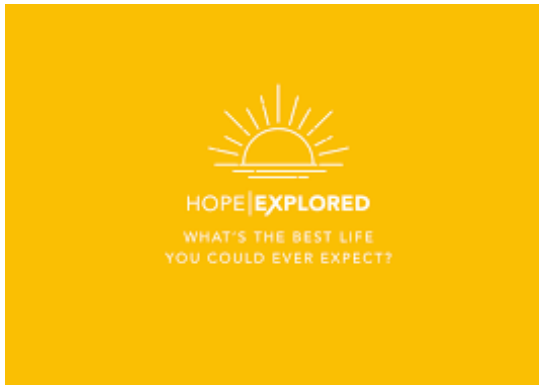


October holidays

Liz will be on holiday next week (Monday 17th to Friday 21st October) and there will be no newsletter on Monday. Normal service will resume the following week ☺

There will be no Baby and Toddler group on Monday 17th but the group will be back on Monday 24th October.

Hope Explored

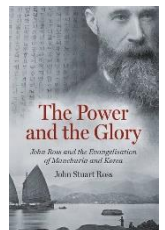


We are planning on starting a Hope Explored Course after the morning services in November. Hope Explored is an introduction to Christianity and is for anyone new to the Christian faith or who would like an introduction to the gospel.

It is also for anyone in the church family interested in evangelism and wanting to see how the course is run. Our hope is to offer it to the local community in the new year. Please contact Liz if you have any questions or would like to be involved.

Christian Focus Publications – Thursday 27th October

Christian Focus Publications are hosting an event in the Edinburgh Theological Seminary on Thursday 27th October at 7.30pm to mark the launch of *The Power and The Glory: John Ross and the Evangelisation of Manchuria and Korea* (<https://www.christianfocus.com/products/3064/the-power-and-the-glory>). Everyone is welcome. There will be refreshments, discussion and pre-sale copies of the books available.



Manse Garage Renovation



Give thanks that the work to convert the garage at the manse into a study for Joe is now complete! Pray that this new space will be a blessing to the Barnard family and give thanks for all those who worked so hard to get this project done.



Church Calendar

For your prayers and info –

- Monday: Baby and Toddler Group at 10am;
- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting on Zoom at 7pm.
- Thursday: Men's Discipleship Group at 10.30am in the church
- Sunday:
 - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Litter pick up @ Montgomery Street Park after the service
 - Joint Youth Event with Grace Church Leith at HEC
 - Equip at 6pm



www.holyroodevangelical.org

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