

Weekly Newsletter: 31st October 2022

Introducing...Lorna Ferguson



If you're new to Holyrood, you might not have heard of Lorna. She's one of the missionaries that we support as a church family. Lorna serves in Japan with OMF and is on the Leadership Team there. She attended Holyrood as a student and then while working in Edinburgh. She left to go to Japan with her husband, David, in 1998. They have four sons – Daniel (working in Bangkok), Matthew (working in Edinburgh), Calum (studying in the US) and Alistair (studying in Japan). David died of cancer in 2017 and Lorna continues to work in Japan. Here is an insight Lorna shared on Facebook on Saturday –

'Today (29th October) is a thought-provoking day:

- *It would have been David's 58th birthday. I find myself wondering what his "58" would be like but of course that's unknowable since he's "forever 52". I do suspect though that he would still have his crazy sense of humour as in the photo below!*
- *30 years ago today we arrived in Thailand for a holiday that would change the trajectory of our lives. Through meeting various people whilst we were here, especially a couple church planting in Phuket, God started to call us into mission too. It feels strange being in Bangkok again exactly 30 years to the day, though it wasn't planned that way.*
- *In a few days it will be 10 years since David and I took over the Field Director role in Japan. OMF has a 10 year limit on field leadership appointments so we would have been stepping down around now. What would we have been moving on to? Back to church planting? Of course this is unknowable too because my trajectory changed again when David died (I have another 2+ years in my current role).*



Unknowables and changed trajectories, but what I do know is God is in control, working through all things and that He still has things for me to do, even though I may not know them. So trusting Him today and with my future.'

Lorna is planning to be back in Scotland from mid-December until mid-February. We're looking forward to having her in Holyrood for a couple of Sundays when she's back and you can meet her in person.

This Week...

Joe and Anna are away on holiday from today (Monday) until Thursday 3rd November. For any pastoral matters, please contact one of the elders or a member of the Pastoral Care Team (Maureen Gowans, Elaine Harley, Alison Nelson, Alasdair Roberts or Liz Scott).

There will no Men's Discipleship Group on Thursday this week.

Dougie Laurie

Dougie's funeral will take place at 3pm this Friday (4th November) in the large chapel at Mortonhall Crematorium.

Everyone in the church family is invited and there will be refreshments at the Charwood (on Buckstone Terrace, EH10 6QJ) afterwards. Please be praying for Cathie and the family in their grief and loss.

Book Review – Together Through the Storm by Sally Sims

By Maureen Gowans

Has Pastoral Care month left you thinking, questioning and wondering what it means for you? This book by Sally Sims can help. The author works as a pastoral care coordinator in a church in Australia and comes from a nursing background. Her wisdom and wide experience makes this a very practical book for each of us. It is easy to read (although challenging) and is in three main parts –

- Suffering and the God who cares
- Biblical foundations for Christian care
- Christian care in action



The focus is on Christ centred care and what this looks like from a biblical point of view in relation to difficult situations and how care can be practically expressed. But it is also very down to earth in showing the simple everyday things we can do to care for each other. There are useful insights on every page.

I have read the book several times now and it has helped me to be more intentional in caring. I will keep going back to it again and again when I need to refocus. I hope you will find it helpful too. There is a copy in the church library.

Equip – Sunday 6th November

Joe will take our next Equip session on Sunday 6th November at 6pm on the topic of *Safeguarding Children (and Grandchildren) in an Age of Pornography*. Discipling youth is a community project. All of us need to be thinking about what we can do to help young disciples pursue God in an age of sexual temptation. At this Equip session we are going to take up the difficult topic of pornography and think about what we need to do as a gospel community in order to raise children- and grandchildren- who are willing to say 'no' to temptation in order to say 'yes' to Jesus.

Ladies' Breakfast – Saturday 5th November



November is fast approaching and it's almost time for our first Ladies' Breakfast! Come along to the church on Saturday 5th November from 9.30-11am.

We're planning to eat at 9.30am and then the programme will begin at 10am.

We're looking for an idea of numbers so please let Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) know if you're coming and haven't already signed up. We'd also like it to be a 'bring and share' breakfast so please contact Liz if you'd like to bring something along.

Please be praying as plans are finalised and we get together on the 5th - Norma Shippin will be our speaker. We'll also have an interview, book review, time to pray and our breakfast together ☺

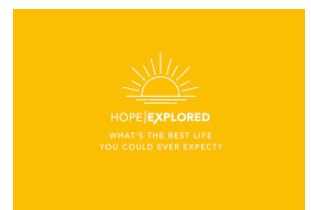
Christmas is coming!

Our Christmas Carol Service will take place in the evening on Sunday 18th December. In November the choir will start their practices after the morning services – their first practice will be after the service on **Sunday 6th November**. All singers are welcome (there is no need to be able to read music), please come along even if you have never been part of the choir before. Contact Norma Shippin (shippins@sky.com) for more information.

Hope Explored – Sunday 6th November

We are planning on starting a Hope Explored Course for four weeks after the morning services. The first session will take place this Sunday morning (6th 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. Grab a coffee after the morning service and head down to room the creche use. Please contact Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) if you have any questions.



Mission Prayer Meeting – Saturday 12th November

Save the date! Our next Mission Prayer Meeting will take place on Saturday 12th November at 9am on Zoom. Please contact Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) if you would like the Zoom codes and don't already receive them.

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 or Shona MacDonald (alexmacdonaldd@googlemail.com) know if you're coming along so we have idea of numbers. Thank you!

Harvest Appeal



There is still time to give to our Harvest Appeal in aid of Tearfund. If you wish to 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!

Mannafields Christian School Open Day – Saturday 5th November

Mannafields Christian School's Open Day is on Saturday 5th November 1-3pm. Anyone is welcome to attend to find out more about Christian education and what the school has to offer. More details about the school can be found [here](#).

Church Calendar

For your prayers and info –

- Monday: Baby and Toddler Group at 10am;
- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting on Zoom at 7pm.
- Friday: Funeral Service for Dougie Laurie, 3pm in the large chapel at Mortonhall
- Saturday: Ladies' Breakfast from 9.30-11am
- Sunday:
 - Communion Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Hope Explored and Choir Practice after the morning service
 - Equip at 6pm



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