

## Weekly Newsletter: 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

### Reflection: Christmas Calendar 2022

By Joe Barnard

There is an old gospel song 'This Train Is Bound for Glory.' I've always loved it because it communicates the sense that a church is not a stationary building anchored to a plot of ground, but rather a powerful engine moving rapidly toward a fixed and exciting destination. The image is apt for Holyrood. I think a lot of us can hear the chugging of the Holy Spirit accelerating us with growing momentum in the direction of mission, witness, evangelism, and disciple-making.

Picking up on this movement, we all need to be prayerful and excited as we cross into the season of advent. In case you haven't noticed already, we have a full schedule of events, all focused on the objective of making the light of this world visible to a people walking in darkness around Montgomery Street. My request to all of us as we approach these events is twofold. First, be excited. Let there be a contagious joy within the congregation as we move into a season of new faces stepping across our threshold. Second, be prayerful. The collective attitude of our church needs to be a humble admission that we can do nothing apart from the grace of the Lord Jesus. If humble prayer and missional excitement merge together, I have no doubt that the next month will be a time of rich blessing for the congregation.

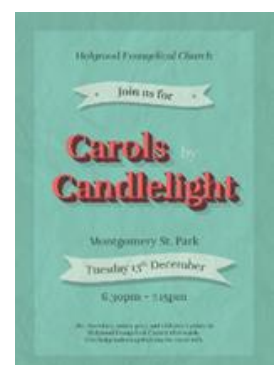
Here is a calendar of events to be lifting up in prayer:

#### 1 – Baby and Toddlers Nativity Play, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 3pm

One thing I love at Holyrood is that we keep the gospel front and centre. Thus, as much as we love serving the local community by providing a baby and toddler group, ultimately, our prayer is that people would learn about Jesus. As part of this aim, we are organising a Christmas event to enable families that come to the Monday group to hear more about Jesus. Ask the Lord that parents and carers would attend and that their heart would be receptive to the good news that Jesus is Lord.

#### 2 – Carols by Candlelight in Montgomery Street Park, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:15pm

One of the problems with a lot of church events is that they require people to step inside of a church building in order to participate. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, we are going to flip the script. Instead of them coming to us, we are going to go out to them. The format is one that will delight a lot of people in the local community. First, we'll sing carols in the park with the Salvation Army Band. Afterwards, we'll go back into the church building for hot chocolate and mince pies. Please pray for the following things: (1) for the Mission Team as they pull together the plans for the event; (2) for the publicity of the



event in the community; and (3) for the night itself – that the kingdom of God would break into the hearts of non-believers as we exalt the name of Jesus.

### **3 – HEC Carol Service, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm**

Carol services are the easiest invitation to a church event all year. They are a unique worship event that appeals to the nostalgia and festive spirit of non-believers. Let's make use of the opportunity of our carol service. Do you have a burden for the soul of a friend, family member, or neighbour? If so, invite them out on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Also, keep the following prayer points in mind as the date approaches: (1) remember the music group and choir as they prepare for the event and (2) for my message – that I could communicate the hope and joy of the gospel to people who know very little about the person and work of Jesus.

### **4 – Christmas Day Family Service, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am**

We are family in Christ. What a joy to be able to gather on Christmas Day itself to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. The service this year will be simple: we will sing some carols, have a time of family worship together, and rejoice in the forgiveness of sins and promise of eternal life which is ours in Jesus.

**Note:** there will be no evening service or home group meetings on December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Christmas Appeal Projects**

Each year we have three regular financial appeals to the congregation -

- the summer appeal – for the annual financial support of our missionaries
- the harvest appeal – for the work of Tearfund
- the Christmas appeal – for projects suggested by the congregation.

Please put forward any suggestions you have for this year's projects to Roy Tatton or Liz Scott ([Liz@holyroodevangelical.org](mailto:Liz@holyroodevangelical.org)) by **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November**. Please provide a brief description and the reason for your suggested project's inclusion. Please pray for wisdom and God's leading for the team involved in selecting the projects.

## **Jean Little**

Jean's funeral details are as follows – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November the interment will be held at 10.45am at Craigmillar Cemetery and the memorial service will be at 12noon in Newhaven Church. Phil will be conducting the service and there will be light refreshments in the church afterwards. Please continue to pray for Eddie, Edna and the family.

## **Book Group – This Saturday**

The next book group will take place this Saturday (26<sup>th</sup> November) at 3.30pm at Anncris's. This month we're reading Living Sacrifice by Helen Roseveare. For more info, contact Anncris ([anncris@gmail.com](mailto:anncris@gmail.com)).

## **Hope Explored**

Hope Explored is back on for the final session this Sunday after the morning service in the creche room. Grab a coffee and head down there after the service.

## Friends International Gift Bags

Friends International have asked us (and nine other churches in the city) to partner with them to distribute gift bags to 50 international students living near the church. We are planning to do this in the church **on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December** from 12 noon to 4pm. This is an exciting opportunity to welcome internationals, serve them refreshments, invite them to our Christmas events and wish them a Happy Christmas as we give them their gift bags.

Please let Liz ([Liz@holyroodevangelical.org](mailto:Liz@holyroodevangelical.org)) know if you can help in any of the following ways –

- supplying home baking on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> or Monday morning 5<sup>th</sup>. Please label any baking with allergy information.
- being on Team 1 from 12 noon until 2pm (serving teas, welcoming/ chatting and handing out gift bags)
- being on Team 2 from 2pm until 4pm (serving teas, welcoming/ chatting and handing out gift bags and clearing up)

## Tearfund Quiz – thank you!

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to the Tearfund Big Quiz Night on Saturday, we hope you all had good fun! We have raised **£3,513** from our Harvest Appeal during Oct/Nov which also includes amounts given at the Quiz. Tearfund have confirmed that:

"An amazing 12,913 people and churches across the UK joined in with the biggest (and, arguably, best) quiz night of the year. So far, our Big Quizzers have collectively raised £69,000 for Tearfund with donations still coming in. Thanks to all of you, many more people around the world will be equipped to lift themselves out of poverty for good. Now, that's worth celebrating!"

A big thank you to Alex and Shona for organising and chairing the quiz and introducing us to Christmas pudding flavoured crisps! Thanks to their support team of Ali and Hannah on catering and John on the AV desk.



## Men's Event – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December



A great opportunity for the men in the church family to get together. Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 from 3-5pm for an afternoon of pickleball (don't know what pickleball is? here's a quick [introduction](#)) , table tennis, and pizza in the church.

Contact Joe for more information ([joebarnard@gmail.com](mailto:joebarnard@gmail.com)) or Alasdair Roberts for table tennis coaching...

## Church Flowers

We are looking for volunteers to arrange the flowers in the vestibule window each week. Please contact Fiona ([fiona@kcestimating.co.uk](mailto:fiona@kcestimating.co.uk)) if you are able to help. Many thanks!

## Bethany Welcome Centre: Items needed

The Bethany Christian Trust team have asked for help to provide the following practical items:



- Warm clothing – jackets, jumpers, T-shirts (not shirts)
- New underwear and socks (we never have enough!)
- Trousers – jeans, tracksuit bottoms (no suit/dress trousers)
- Hats & gloves (no scarves – we always have too many)
- New travel size toiletries (soap, shower gel, shampoo, razors, moisturiser, lip balm, deodorant, packets of tissues)
- New toothbrushes and toothpaste

**\*\*Please note that the vast majority of guests are male\*\***

If you are able to provide any of these items- thank you! Please put them in the labelled box at the back of the church. The box will be available until **Sunday 18 December**. If you have any questions about items needed, contact Hannah Rankin ([hannahrankin@icloud.com](mailto:hannahrankin@icloud.com)).

## Douglas Kelly's Sermons

Patrick Kelly (Doug's son) is working to archive his father's sermons from 1970 to the present and they are available to listen to [here](#).

## Should the UK Legalise Assisted Suicide?

Trinity Forum Edinburgh will host a dialogue at the Royal Society of Edinburgh on **Tuesday, 6 December** at 7pm. The question at hand: Should the UK Legalise Assisted Suicide?

With the legal question of assisted suicide soon returning to the Scottish Parliament, join Dr. Trevor Stammers (Editor, The New Bioethics) and Dr. Stephen Latham (Director, Yale University's Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics) for an evening discussion exploring what's at stake. The event will be chaired by MSP Jeremy Balfour. There is no cost for this event.

For those unable to attend in person, a live stream will be available: <https://youtu.be/3rC7lt1iRQI>  
RSVP at Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/445529509757>

With regards to the possibility of legalising assisted suicide in Scotland, you can also consider signing the petition expressing your concerns. This can be found at: <https://carenotkilling.scot/>

## Christians in Sport Youth Event – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Christians in Sport are planning an evening of sports challenges and activities for young sports people in S1-S6. There will be a short talk on how Christianity and sport can connect. It will be held at Grace Church Leith on Saturday 26th November 7-9pm. Please book [here](#).

## Cornhill Scotland – Book in a Day



Andy Gemmill, Director of the Pastors' Training Course, will lead us through the well-known but often poorly understood **Book of Jonah** on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December (9.30am to 4.30pm) at 25 Bath Street, Glasgow**. Andy has thought about, and taught the book of Jonah over a long period and it will be a very stimulating and sharpening day as we think about this important minor prophet.

The day will be a great opportunity to learn key Bible handling skills and to grow in your understanding of the book of Jonah whilst enjoying warm fellowship with like-minded brothers and sisters. Our Book in a Day events will be really helpful for pastors, elders, women's workers, lay preachers, Bible study leaders, youth and children's workers or anyone wanting help with reading the Bible for themselves. We would love to have you with us. Booking is open [here](#).

## 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 (last one for this year!) at 10.30am in the church
- Saturday: Book Group at 3.30pm at Anncri's
- Sunday:
  - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
  - Choir Practice and Hope Explored after the morning service
  - Home Groups



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