

## Weekly Newsletter: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### Welcoming Daniel Trail

It is wonderful to welcome Daniel as a church member and to hear how God has been at work in his life. Here is his testimony -

I was saved during the first Covid lockdown in March/April 2020. I had been struggling with my mental health due to all the sudden changes Covid brought, from working at home to basically everything closing, and I was not sleeping well.

One night, I came across some very uplifting gospel music and had a real awakening experience as a result, feeling so much love and joy and physical warmth from the Holy Spirit. I felt God wanted me to live for Him from then on and to join a gospel church and I subsequently found Destiny Church Edinburgh.

I connected to that church virtually initially due to lockdown and learned all about the Gospel, got saved and completed their According to the Pattern new Christian discipleship course online. I also joined a Small Group for the first time. I met lots of great people and made lots of new friends at Destiny Church Edinburgh, which is now City on a Hill church after breaking away from Destiny Ministries last year. God really helped me overcome my mental health struggles and develop as a Christian in 2020 and I got baptised in the sea at Portobello beach in September 2020, an amazing day!

Jesus then led me to meeting Katherine in October last year, shortly after re-committing to living for Him after a spell of spiritual drought earlier in 2021. While we were dating, I started attending Holyrood Evangelical with Katherine in January this year for the occasional Sunday Service, while still attending City on a Hill, and I got to know many people at Holyrood through Katherine and others. Katherine and I then got engaged in June this year and we can't wait to get married in the Holyrood church building in May next year! I enjoyed going away to Pitlochry in September on the Holyrood men's weekend retreat, alongside men from Deeside Christian Fellowship church in Aberdeen, the church I actually attended sometimes with my grandparents when younger- a clear sign I felt that the Lord wanted me to join Holyrood! I then switched from City on a Hill to Holyrood Evangelical in October.

Since joining, I've enjoyed taking part in the weekly men's discipleship hymn workouts and it's been good to join Katherine's home group. I'm also keen to play my saxophone in the worship band.



I'm so grateful for all God has done for me- primarily saving me spiritually of course but also mentally and He has taken me on a real journey over the past 2.5 years, through the ups and downs of life and I'm learning more and more about Him and His Word as I walk with Him every day. I'm looking forward to what the coming months and years will bring for Katherine and I at Holyrood Evangelical.

## Funeral Details for Ruth (Kay's sister)

Ruth's funeral will take place on Tuesday 13th December at 10am at Barclay Viewforth Church. Then at Morningside cemetery followed by refreshments at the Braid Hills Great Western Hotel.

If you are planning to attend, please let Liz ([Liz@holyroodevangelical.org](mailto:Liz@holyroodevangelical.org)) know so that the family have an idea of numbers.

## Christmas Appeal 2022

Our Christmas Appeal is now open and on Sunday we heard about the four projects that we'll be supporting this December-

1. **Bibles, Blankets and Generators for Ukraine with the European Mission Fellowship (EMF).** Their target is to raise £50,000, for 2,000 Bibles and blankets, and 20 generators. Every £15 will get a Bible and a blanket to someone in Ukraine who desperately needs them. Electricity generators will create warm places this winter in Ukraine. Each medium sized generator costs about £1,000.



2. **Queensland Theological College** where Warner and Sheena's son in law, Gary Millar, is the Principal. They have had a tough year because of financial issues in their denomination (the Presbyterian Church of Queensland). QTC have had to raise around \$8 million to buy their own building. They've managed to raise the funds needed through donations, fund raising and taking out a number of loans. Any financial support we could give them would be a blessing and help the ministry to continue. We pray regularly for the college and the Millar family.

3. **Bonar Trust** was set up to develop, fund and train gospel workers for the church in Scotland. The fund supports Ministry Apprenticeships and Ministers in Training. Many will remember Ciaran Kelleher, who was a Ministry Apprentice with us and is now the Minister of the Free Church Plant in Montrose. Many of the young men preaching for us in recent months will have been supported by the Trust.



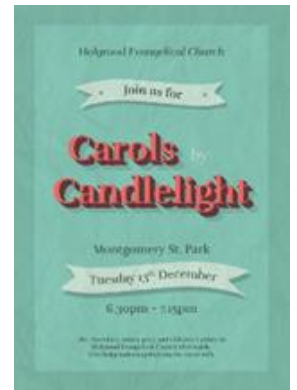
4. **The Johnson family** are serving God in North Africa. They have raised sufficient funds to return after the summer but it would be a great encouragement if we gave them a financial gift. We don't know of any specific items that they need, but a monetary gift could be used for family needs or for the project they are working on.

More details will be given on each of these projects in the newsletter over the coming weeks. Any contributions to the Christmas Appeal can be made by bank transfer or cheque. Please mark your gift as 'Christmas Appeal'.

## Christmas Calendar 2022

Here's a list of what's happening in December –

- Baby and Toddlers Nativity, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 3pm. **Please come along and support the Baby and Toddler Group on Sunday afternoon.** Everyone is welcome!
- Carols by Candlelight in Montgomery Street Park, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:15pm
- Carol Service, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm
- Christmas Day Family Service, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am



**Note:** there will be no evening service or home group meetings on December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>. There will also be no prayer meeting on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December but we'll have our first prayer meeting of 2023 on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

## Home Groups and Equip in 2023

Home Groups will restart for the year on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January and will continue to follow our rhythm of meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. Equip Sessions will continue on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays with Praise Evenings taking place on any 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday evenings.

## Blog Post

Did you know that Joe blogs most weeks on the church website? Have a look at his latest post on envy <https://holyroodevangelical.org/2022/11/30/dont-let-envy-spoil-your-joy/> and keep an eye out for future posts...

## Next Ladies' Breakfast – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Save the date! Our next Ladies' Breakfast will be on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January from 9.30am until 11am. We're delighted that Lorna Ferguson will be our speaker and more details will follow in the new year.

**Note:** the January Book Group will meet on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January instead of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Bethany Welcome Centre: Items needed

Only two Sundays left for anyone who wants to contribute to the practical items that the Bethany team have asked us to help with. Here's a list of what they are looking for –



**Bethany  
Christian  
Trust**

- 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
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**\*\*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 ([hannahlrankin@icloud.com](mailto:hannahlrankin@icloud.com)).

## Church Calendar

For your prayers and info –

- Monday: Baby and Toddler Group at 10am; Pastoral Care Team at 7.30pm on Zoom
- Tuesday: Youth Discipleship Team at 7.30pm on Zoom
- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting at 7pm on Zoom
- Thursday: Session Meeting at 7pm on Zoom
- Sunday:
  - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
  - Christmas Choir Practice after the morning service
  - Baby and Toddler Nativity at 3pm
  - Home Groups



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