

Weekly Newsletter: 21st February 2023

New Member - Fiona MacMillan

On Sunday, Fiona was welcomed into membership of the Holyrood church family. Here's her story so far –

'Hello. I'm Fiona. I'm married to Neil, have two sons, a daughter and four grandchildren.



Originally from "The Blue Toon" in Aberdeenshire, I've lived in Edinburgh for the past 41 years. For the last 10 years I worked part-time as an administrator, but "retired" last year so that I could spend more time with, and help, my father and family.

My faith journey is no road to Damascus experience. Growing up among seafarers and farming folk, belief and trust in God was in my DNA from birth, but undoubtedly nurtured by living in a Christian home: I can never hear the 23rd Psalm sung to the tune Crimond without being transported to my maternal grandparent's farm in the parish of Crimond where family gatherings always finished with the singing of that praise. As a teenager, I made a public declaration of faith and joined the Church of Scotland and, on moving to Edinburgh, I moved "my lines" to the local church where I participated fully in all aspects of the fellowship.

Due to family commitments, a few months pre Covid, I withdrew from the church I was attending and became an "itinerant worshipper", selfishly benefiting from encouraging teaching and preaching without engaging in, or committing to, the activities and work of any particular church. During this period, I occasionally popped in to Holyrood where, whether during Phil Hair's ministry or the unsettling time of vacancy, I genuinely always felt at home and came away having been challenged and uplifted by the preaching. Covid, and the attendant lockdowns, changed our lives in all manner of ways, but it was great to be able to find strength and encouragement through hearing God's word faithfully preached via the internet. As public spaces gradually began to open up, I once again felt God directing me to "in person" worship at Holyrood.

Some of you I've known for some time; from Norma Downie's Bible Study days in the mission hall in Britwell Crescent, or from the school walk with our respective children. Others I recognise from past shared activities between our former churches. More recently I've got to know folk thanks to the Ladies Breakfasts, attending the Toddler Group with one of my grandsons, and even when visiting the housing complex where my father now lives!

Change is unsettling and challenging, but I know that God has led me to the fellowship here at Holyrood and, holding fast to the promise of Proverbs 3:5-6, I'm looking forward to growing my faith, serving Christ and getting to know more of you.

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

Update from Fiona and Ken

On Thursday last we met with the consultant who confirmed a diagnosis of myeloma and discussed two lines of treatment available. Fiona has decided to go for the intensive treatment, which is two hospital visits a week in four week blocks over four months. Towards the end of the four there is the possibility of stem cell treatment, depending on effective response to the treatment received - which would involve three weeks in hospital. While this sounds a bit daunting the consultant is confident Fiona can cope with the treatment and side effects. Already she has benefited from a reduction in pain due to medication which has been great.

We both have felt a sense of peace about this, thanks to your prayers and wonderful care and concern and a loving Heavenly Father, who has sustained and accompanied us on this journey through the valley.

Due to Fiona having an extremely low immune system we both need to remain free from any infections which may hinder the treatment, so we are unlikely to be able to attend church meetings. Visitors will also be an issue and it will be difficult having limited access to our families and grandchildren. At present with family and a few close friends we are coping with things, however should we require help in the days ahead we will have no hesitation in asking you. Your prayers and support mean so much to us at this time. If you wish to contact Fiona, please text or email and she can reply appropriately when she has time.

Thank you so much, love to you all in our church family, Fiona and Ken

Prayer Meeting – this Wednesday

The prayer meeting this week will be **in person at the church at 7pm**. Isaac and Gloria Shaw will be joining us to share about the work in Delhi. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.30pm in the church to allow us to meet and chat to them beforehand. We will have a Zoom option available for those who want to join the prayer meeting from home. The codes will be sent out as usual on Wednesday morning.

Welcome to Holyrood

We're having another Welcome to Holyrood session for anyone who has recently started coming along to our services. It will be this **Sunday (26th February)** after the morning service. Grab a cup of coffee and head downstairs to the hall for 20 minutes to hear more about what Holyrood has to offer and how you can get involved.

Men's Discipleship – starting this Thursday

There are a couple of options starting this week. Here are the details for your info and prayers -

Early Morning Option:

- Time: Thursdays at 7:30am
- Start Date: February 23rd
- Location: Starbucks at 123 Lothian Rd.
- We will start promptly at 7:30am and end at 8:15am

Mid Morning Option:

- Time: Thursdays at 10:30am
- Start Date: February 23rd
- Location: HEC

There may also be a Tuesday morning Zoom option for men not able to meet in-person. Chat with Joe for details.

Book Group – this Saturday

The Book Group this month is on this **Saturday (25th February)** at 3.30pm and we will be reading *Sleeping Giant* by Tommy MacNeil.

Please note that the meeting this month will be at Sue Holloway's house. Further information from Anncris (anncris@gmail.com)



Tamas Daxner – Scripture Union Hungary

Tamas, who is the National Leader for SU Hungary, will be in Edinburgh from Thursday 2nd until Sunday 5th March. We are looking forward to meeting him and he will take part in our service on 5th March. For more information about the work of SU in Hungary, go [here](#).

A Thank You from Gary Millar - Queensland Theological College

To the Elders and Members of HEC

Warmest greetings from Brisbane (and not just because it has been 35 degrees with 95% humidity over the past couple of days!). We thank God for your partnership in the gospel - the support of brothers and sisters on the other side of the world who pray for us and cared for us tangibly means so much. Last Monday night's Thanksgiving and Commencement was a deeply moving thing, as we celebrated God's relentless faithfulness and extravagant kindness to us in the home which we thought we would lose, and yet is now safe in the hands of the new company (A Future QTC Ltd). It's hard to describe the sense of relief and gratitude which we all share, both staff and students. I think it's also true to say that what God has done here at QTC has given all of God's people (especially the Presbyterian Church) across Queensland a real lift.

The legal/financial issues surrounding the denomination are dragging on, and will do for some time, but these no longer have any direct impact on the life of the College. Our academic year has just begun, with a renewed sense of privilege and purpose, as we invest in a new intake of students, and pray for those who have stepped into all kinds of ministry roles here in Australia and beyond. Please do pray for us in this, and for our Board, as we seek to lead the College through this next phase of God's work here.

Warmly in Christ, Gary

The World of the Bible – Tyndale House



Tyndale House are having their Edinburgh Day Conference on 22 April 2023 looking at 'The World of the Bible – how Scripture fits together & what it means for us today' It promises to be a great day of teaching from Tyndale House researchers. Take a look at the talks they have lined up [here](#). Tickets (Full price £15; Live stream £5) are limited and can be booked [here](#). Location: Chalmers Church, EH10 4AZ

Church Calendar

For your prayers and info –

- Monday:
 - Baby & Toddler Group from 10am – 11.30am
 - Warm Space from 12.30 – 4pm
 - Co-ordination Group at 7pm
- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting at 7pm with Isaac Shaw in person and on Zoom
- Thursday:
 - Men's Discipleship in person at 7.30am or 10.30am
 - Session Meeting at 7pm on Zoom
- Saturday: Book Group at 3.30pm
- Sunday:
 - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Welcome to Holyrood Session after the service
 - Home Groups – contact liz@holyroodevangelical.org for more details



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