

Weekly Newsletter: 3rd October 2023

A Tribute to Kathleen Forsyth

By Ernie and Norma Shippin

As a church family we are mourning the passing of our dear sister and friend Kathleen Forsyth who went to be with her Lord on the afternoon of Monday 25 September 2023 after a short time of illness in Ferryfield House. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Kathleen was a tour de force – she was loved and respected everywhere she went. But she was far more than that. When we think of her we think of her determination to be faithful to her Lord in every area of her life; her desire to see young people come to know and love the Saviour; her sense of humour and ability to laugh at herself; her wonderful, self-sacrificial care for her own mother; her friendship to so many all over the world; her integrity and dedication to the truth and her sharp and intelligent mind; her single minded desire to serve God wherever and whenever she was called.

She was part of the Holyrood fellowship since 1977, first as a long-standing and faithful member of Holyrood Abbey and latterly as an enthusiastic member of Holyrood Evangelical. As a result of a church holiday to Israel where she got to know some of the women in the fellowship she decided to attend the Woman's Guild. She soon became a member of the church committee, then its president. As a result she attended presbyterial meetings and joined the national committee. In a very short time she was elected President of the Guild, a post she held for two years. During that time she travelled the length and breadth of the country, visiting and speaking at Guilds, attending different committees and addressing the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. This was a challenging time for Kathleen but she rose magnificently to that challenge.

Kathleen qualified as a teacher which she loved and was promoted to head teacher. She was a greatly respected member of her profession and was a lifelong supporter of Scripture Union. As a youngster she attended Crusaders and gave her life to the Saviour when she was 12 years old.

Another of her great passions was music and she was a very gifted organist and pianist. Perhaps though it was as a singer that she will be most fondly remembered. Who can forget her beautiful voice soaring with the words Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour. For many of us, the Christmas season began with her



singing of that song. She was a faithful and able member of the choir each year and was always so encouraging to everyone in it.

Kathleen was also a fabulous cook and took the helm in charge of the catering in the church when Ann MacTaggart passed that mantle on to her. Who can forget her broccoli bake or strawberry pavlova? She had a team around her who worked like a well oiled machine – nothing was too much trouble for her – and we are sure many can testify to the excellent events which she masterminded in the church hall.

Kathleen was a long serving and faithful team member at the Wednesday Centre which provided care for a number of elderly and vulnerable folk. As well as being dependably faithful in attendance at services of worship and the prayer meeting, she served the church in a myriad of other ways. We remember many happy trips to Word Alive with Kathleen and her great friend Mary Philip (and one with Fiona Colville) which she really enjoyed and where it was a joy to worship together!

Although latterly Kathleen experienced some times of indifferent health, she was never one for self pity and she remained courageous and calm to the very end. An absolute example of meeting death with a steady eye. We look forward to that great, glad glorious day, when the dawn will break and the shadows flee away and we will meet again.

Kathleen's funeral will take place on Thursday 12th October at 10am at Mortonhall Crematorium. Light refreshments afterwards (venue to be confirmed).

Answering the Question, Who Is Holyrood?

Last Sunday night at Equip Joe gave a talk on the topic of affiliation. The purpose of the talk was to give the congregation a framework for understanding the importance of the topic and also to give some guidance for how to be praying. If you have not yet watched the talk, please do. You can find it using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/BXUMBcKNKbU?si=7aigOSu74mbEzx9M>.

Prayer Meeting – this Wednesday

Just a reminder that it's the first Wednesday of the month so our prayer meeting will be in person at 7pm. We're looking forward to having Serenna MacLellan share with us about her time in Peru over the summer. The prayer bulletin will be online as usual and hard copies will be available in the church.

Defib Training – this Wednesday

Training on how to use the defibrillator that has been fitted to the outside of the church building will take place on Wednesday at 8pm after the in person prayer meeting. Please come along!

Youth Discipleship – this Friday

Two events to highlight for our youth this week -

- **First Fridays:** It's the first Friday of the month and this month we're meeting at the manse (112 Milton Road West) from 7-9pm for games, snacks and to hear an interview with Serenna. Contact Andy (andyandlizscott@gmail.com) if you have any questions or need help with a lift.
- **The Hudson Taylor Challenge:** Join together with Joe on a Zoom call for an 8 week spiritual challenge based on the life of Hudson Taylor. It starts this Friday from 1.15 – 2pm. Contact Joe for more details and the Zoom codes.



Ladies' Breakfast – this Saturday

Our next Ladies' Breakfast will take place from **9.30am to 11am this Saturday**. Eleanor Dickson will be our speaker as well as hearing an interview with Anna Barnard. Please join us for a time of fellowship, teaching and prayer (as well as having our breakfast together!) Any questions, please contact Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org)

Church Calendar

For your prayers and info:

- Monday: Baby & Toddler Group from 10am – 11.30am
- Tuesday:
 - Men's Discipleship at 6.30am on Zoom
 - Pickleball and Table Tennis at 7pm
 - Ladies' Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom
- Wednesday:
 - Prayer Meeting at 7pm in person with Serenna MacLellan
 - Defib Training at 8pm in person
- Thursday:
 - Men's Discipleship at 10.30am in person in the church
 - Communication Team Meeting at 7.30pm on Zoom
- Friday:
 - Youth Discipleship – The Hudson Taylor Challenge from 1.15 – 2pm on Zoom
 - Youth Group 'First Fridays' from 7-9pm at the manse (112 Milton Road West)
- Saturday: Ladies' Breakfast with Eleanor Dickson from 9.30 – 11am
- Sunday:
 - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Home Groups



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