

Weekly Newsletter: 7th November 2023

New members

It was a joy to welcome Serenna Maclellan and Jacques Laas into church membership on Sunday. Here they share their testimonies with us.



Serenna – 'I grew up in a small village called Torrance, near Glasgow, as the eldest of 3 kids, in a supportive Christian home, where faith was a key part of our life.

Becoming a Christian was a gradual process for me. While I do remember a moment as a young child, praying on our blue sofa that Jesus would come into my heart, my faith has grown and deepened, across many years of journeying with God, from a basic child-like understanding of the gospel, to a relationship of fundamental value in my life.

It has endured through different valleys along the way, whether it was holding onto God through many years of loneliness through school or watching my mum struggle with health during my teen years.

But as with all journeys I have also found joy on the mountain tops, in moments of awe at who God is and marvelling at his abundant provision. He has been my faithful companion and ever will be. I don't know what the future holds, but I trust that he knows the route set before me, and that even when I am strong, weak, or wandering, his faithfulness, grace and love will go with me.'

Jacques – 'I am Jacques Laas, born and bred in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. After finishing my accountancy studies in 2010 I received the compulsory blessing of moving to Edinburgh to pursue my vocation, where I was given the opportunity to get out of the comfort of the home and people I grew up with, and make new friends, be part of a new community, and learn first-hand how to understand the strong Scottish accent.

I grew up in a Christian home and learned about our Lord from an early age. Through my primary and secondary school years I was given many opportunities to help serve in the work of the gospel, in which I've continued to learn about the path that God has laid out for me.

When I arrived in Edinburgh in 2010 I moved into a flat in Meadowbank and happened upon Holyrood Abbey Church, which I've attended for the last 13 years, in its different forms and locations. Over those years I've been fortunate to make many



friends, take part in games evenings and Bible study groups, and even had our minister Joe wed me and my wife Kadi in August 2023, after getting to know him and Anna on a much more personal level. I'm truly grateful for the leaders and congregation at Holyrood, and the way that God has always provided through both the flat and the rocky seasons of my life so far.'

Arrangements for Andy Bathgate's Funeral

The details are as follows:

- A Service of Gratitude for Andy Bathgate will be held at Craiglockhart Parish Church on **Thursday 9th November 2023** at 1.00pm. Family and friends are warmly invited.
- Space at Craiglockhart Parish Church is relatively limited, so the family are creating an opportunity in a larger venue for more people to gather to reflect on and celebrate Andy's life and ministry here and around the world at a separate Memorial Service. This will be held on **Saturday 27th January 2024** at 1.30pm at Charlotte Baptist Chapel, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh. The service will be coordinated by Edinburgh City Mission, SU Scotland and UCCF.

[This online page](#) will be kept up-to-date with livestream links once available. There is also the option to add a message of condolence. Donations in Andrew's memory may be given at the door or direct to Edinburgh City Mission: <https://edinburghcitymission.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

Please pray for Andy's widow Alyson, his daughters Karyn and Fiona, son-in-law David, and their three sons Ellis, Brodie and Lachlan as they prepare for the funeral.

Prayer Meeting and Asha Curry Night

Our prayer meeting this week will be on Zoom at 7pm and we're looking forward to having Freddy Martin from Asha India joining us. The prayer bulletin will be available online. Please contact Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) if you would like the Zoom codes or details for the prayer bulletin.

Meadowbank Church are also hosting an Asha Curry Night on **Friday 17th November**. Doors open at 6pm and Freddy Martin will be the speaker. The aim of the evening is to have an update on the work of Asha and to raise funds. The tickets are free but donations will be taken on the evening. If you would like a ticket, please contact Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org)

Women's Ministry Reminder

Please come along **this Thursday** for our in person Bible studies. We're meeting in the church from 10.30-11.30am. Tea, coffee, scones and good chat will be provided!

We're hoping to go along to Handel's Messiah on **Tuesday 2nd January** at 12 noon at the Usher Hall. Please contact Anncriis anncris@gmail.com by Wednesday this week (8th November) if you would like to come as we need to book tickets.

Christmas Choir – this Sunday

Choir rehearsals for the Christmas Carol Service continue this Sunday after the morning service. All new singers are very welcome and there is no requirement to read music - just an enthusiasm to sing with other believers to the glory of God! Please contact Norma (shippins@sky.com) for further information.

Sunday 19th November

On **Sunday 19th November** we are looking forward to –

- Helping the Friends of Montgomery Street Park with a litter pick and to plant some bulbs over in the park. Please bring a small hand trowel if you have one and head over to the park for 12 noon.
- Enjoying a church family lunch together after the morning service. Lunch will be provided - please stay behind after the service and contact Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) if you have any dietary requirements.

Mission Prayer Meeting

Our next Mission Prayer Meeting will be on **Saturday 25th November** at 9am on Zoom. Come along and hear from updates from those serving overseas and spend time praying with for them.

Book Group

The next book group meeting will be on **Saturday 25th November** at 3.30pm and we will be discussing God's Rascal by Dale Ralph Davis. For further details please contact Anncris (anncris@gmail.com)

Christmas Meals in Homes for International Students



DEC 18-25

friends INTERNATIONAL

SIGN UP

HOST 3-6 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FOR

Christmas MEALS IN HOMES

Friends International is often in contact with international students who are interested in experiencing Christmas, but don't have the chance to do so because their classmates all return to their homes during the break. Most international students do not return home, so this is a great chance to show hospitality and love to these students.

Please sign up using the QR code above and Friends International will connect 3-6 international students to local hosts to meet in their home sometime during the week of December 18th to 25th.

Christmas Appeal 2023

By Andy Scott

This year, we are again asking the congregation for suggestions for projects that can be supported by the Christmas Appeal.

This will hopefully have been discussed in your home groups as this year the elders are making a couple of small adjustments. While the congregation are free to suggest any project, the Session are keen to encourage projects that reflect the developing aims of the church. The elders will be looking particularly for projects that enhance or support the following areas:-

- Within the fellowship:- preaching, prayer, congregational discipleship, or youth work
- Our local missional/outreach work
- Supporting other training and church planting organisations:- e.g. 20 Schemes, Free Church, Bonar Trust, Cornhill Scotland
- Missionary partners that we pray for and support throughout the year



Christmas Appeal 2023

We hope that this year's appeal projects will reflect the developing aims of the church. Suggestions that might come under the following headings are sought:

- ❖ Within the fellowship
- ❖ Local missional/outreach work
- ❖ Other training and church planting organisations
- ❖ Missionary partners

Full details in the newsletter

Please let Andy Scott have your suggestions by **Tuesday 14th November**

Please send your suggestions to me by Tuesday 14 November at 5pm either by email (andyandlizscott@gmail.com) or happy to receive suggestions in long hand if that is easier.

The elders will meet on Thursday 16 November to decide which projects are to benefit from the Christmas Appeal. They will be announced to the congregation shortly thereafter and more information on each project will be

provided to the congregation in the month of December in the normal manner.

Church Calendar

For your prayers and info:

- Monday:
 - Baby & Toddler Group from 10am – 11.30am
 - Warm Space 12noon – 3pm
- Tuesday: Pickleball and Table Tennis at 7pm
- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting at 7pm on Zoom
- Thursday: Men's and Women's Discipleship 10.30-11.30am in the church
- Friday: Holyrood Youth – The Hudson Taylor Challenge from 1.15-2pm on Zoom. Contact Joe for more details.
- Sunday (Remembrance Day):
 - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Home Groups



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