

Weekly Newsletter: 16th April 2024

Reflection: Doing More vs. Doing Better

Here is a question that I hope everyone cares about: How can we do more mission together as a congregation?

Now, there are two ways to answer the question. The first and more obvious answer is simply to do more stuff. More activities equal more mission. Therefore, if we want more mission, we just need to add events to the calendar. The logic is clear here – but so is the cost. Doing more requires asking more of people. If this method is effective, it is also taxing. A church that is intent to always do more will be a church whose members are often flagging.

Fortunately, there is a second way of answering the question. This is not to do more, but rather to do better. Here the objective is to take what is already happening and to continually improve it. Often, this might mean not adding new missional events to the calendar, but adding a missional element to something already scheduled. For example, a youth event can simply be an in-house event for teenagers already attending HEC, or a banner can be printed and a wider invitation offered so that the scheduled event becomes a missional outreach.

The great benefits of this second method are ease and simplicity. By focusing on doing better (instead of doing more) we conserve the limited time and energy of our members. We ensure that people are not so tied up with church activities that they lose their freedom for the other frontlines that God has given them i.e. work, family, friends, and additional service opportunities.

Keeping the latter model in mind, we will soon be adding a missional element to two regular events that happen in the life of HEC. First, we are going to try having a **meal together in the church before the first prayer meeting of each month**. This is not a new concept. A lot of churches with thriving ministries among students and young professionals do something like this. Such churches recognise that a meal can be a powerful incentive to showing up to a meeting. A free meal both saves money (something of great appeal not least to students) and saves time (something of great appeal not least to professionals). But, in fact, a meal does more than this. It becomes a regular missional event on the calendar. Think of how much easier it is to invite someone to a meal than to a prayer meeting! The beauty of this model is that, by doing one, you are also doing the other.

Second, we are going to make some **changes to our summer picnic**. As wonderful as it has been to get away for an afternoon together near West Linton, such distance is a barrier to inviting new people to the event. Not everyone is willing (or able) to travel outside of the city.

The plan this year will be to host the event on **Saturday 22nd June** both at the church building and at Montgomery Street Park. God willing, this will enable us to add a missional element to the summer picnic. (The Mission Team is diligently working on the details.) After all, if we are going to make the effort of organising a day of food and games, why not be creative to think of ways of inviting the wider community to take part in the fun? We need to remember that much of our salt and light is the shared life that we enjoy together. The more we can get ourselves out of the building and out into the wider community, the more the basket will be lifted and our light seen.

I think most of us at Holyrood long to be able to do more missional events as a congregation. Yet, many of us are aware that resources are limited in terms of people, energy, and time. Let's be praying that God continues to draw in new church members who have a vision and passion for local outreach. But while we wait for such prayers to be answered, let's do something more. Let's also look for ways to improve our shared life so that more outreach can happen – not by doing more – but by doing better.

Prayer Meetings

Our prayer meetings are now **in person every week** at 7pm with a Zoom option available. Refreshment will be served from 6.45pm for those in the building and Zoom codes will be sent out as usual.

On the first Wednesday of each month we're going to have a simple meal together before the prayer meeting. Come at 5.45pm for a meal at 6pm (in the hall downstairs) and the prayer meeting will start as usual at 7pm. **Our first Wednesday meal together will be on 1st May** and there's no need to bring anything, all the food will be provided.

If you have any question or dietary requirements, please contact Liz@holyroodevangelical.org

Women's Discipleship in Holyrood

Are you captivated by the view of Jesus that we see in the gospels? Do you want to become more confident in understanding the gospel story? Then come along to our in person Women's Bible Studies! We'll be continuing to look at the gospels using Rebecca McLaughlin's helpful book *Navigating Gospel Truth*. There's no book to buy or homework to do, just come along as you are.

We'll run for six weeks from **Thursday 25th April** (until 30th May) at 11am in the church.

Save the date: we're planning a **Ladies' Afternoon Tea on Saturday 11th May** from 2 – 3.30pm so keep the date free! More details to follow.



Biblical Counselling UK – Grieving with Hope



When our friends and family face loss, we long to help them well but all too often we struggle to know how to respond. Our words can falter, we can say things that wound, and, in the end, we may find ourselves tempted to withdraw. But, in Jesus, there is hope – for those who mourn and for those who walk alongside! Join BCUK at their regional conferences to look at how to support those who are grieving.

When: **Saturday 20th April** from 10am until 3pm

Where: St Columba's Free Church, Johnson Terrace, Edinburgh

For more details and to book a ticket, go to <https://bcuk.org/event/grieving-with-hope-edinburgh/>

Meet a Modern-Day John Wycliffe

On **Thursday 25th April** at 7.30pm we are hosting Wycliffe Bible Translators and an evening with Komi Sena.

Wycliffe Bible Translators partners with 'modern-day John Wycliffes' all around the world, who are working to do for their people what John Wycliffe did for speakers of English, and together create a world where everyone can know Jesus through the Bible.



Komi Sena leads the Ife Bible translation project in Togo and works as a Bible translation adviser to a number of language groups in West Africa. Komi has an amazing story to share about the challenges and joys he has seen as God works through his word being made available in people's languages. For more details contact churches@wycliffe.org.uk

Christian Fellowship Walking Group

The next walk will be on **Saturday 27th April** along the River Tyne (Haddington to East Linton - 10.25km / 6.25 miles – 3.5 hrs) <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lothian/haddington-east-linton.shtml>

Meet at 10am at the Newcraighall Park and Ride, EH21 8SG or at 10.30am in the car park in front of Saint Mary's Church, Haddington EH41 4BZ.

Bring (1) money or a bus pass for the bus back to Haddington and (2) a packed lunch. Please let Calum (cmackellar@yahoo.com) know if you are coming.

Love Life Prayer and Pro Life Chain



On **Saturday 27th April**, from 10.15 – 10.45am Charlotte Chapel are hosting a time of prayer on the theme of “Love Life”.

This is a chance for Christians to meet and pray together before SPUC’s National Pro-Life Chain at 11am on Lothian Road. The Pro-Life Chain is a peaceful witness to the millions of unborn children aborted since the implementation of the Abortion Act in 1968.

Slugs and Bugs are in town!

Randall Goodgame (creator of Slugs and Bugs) will be in Edinburgh in May and is doing two family concerts for kids and all grown-ups who are young at heart!

Slugs and Bugs LIVE will be happening at Carrubbers on **Friday 10th May** at 7pm (tickets are available [here](#)) and at Hope City Church on **Saturday 11th May** at 4pm (tickets are available [here](#)). Contact Liz@holyroodevangelical.org for more details.



Church Calendar

For your info and prayers :

- Tuesday: Volleyball (in the park) and Table Tennis (in the church) from 7pm
- Wednesday: Prayer meeting at 7pm in person (6.45pm for refreshments) and on Zoom
- Thursday: Session meeting at 7pm in person
- Sunday:
 - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Equip at 6pm (and live streamed). Joe Barnard leading.
- Monday: Baby and Toddlers at 10am



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