

Weekly Newsletter: 28th May 2024

Small Changes in How We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

By Joe Barnard

Actions often silently (and unintentionally) communicate a message. Traditionally, when we celebrate communion, the elders have partaken of the elements first and then distributed them to the congregation. The fear of the session is that this order might communicate an unhelpful message to new people - as if the elders partake first because somehow they are more important than others. Our desire is that the opposite message is communicated, namely, that elders lead by service and put themselves last, not first.

Mindful of this, we are going to make a small change in how we celebrate the sacrament. This Sunday and from now on, the elders are going to wait to come onto the platform until after the minister has given thanks for the elements. They will then serve the congregation first before partaking of the elements themselves. Our hope is that these small adjustments will help to reinforce the teaching of Jesus that "whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10 v45).

Prayer Meetings

We're looking forward to meeting in person **this Wednesday** at 7pm for our prayer meeting (refreshments served from 6.45pm). There is an online option and Zoom codes will be sent out on Wednesday morning.

The following Wednesday (5th June) we'll have **a meal together before the prayer meeting**. Come to the church from 5.45pm and we'll eat together at 6pm before the prayer meeting at 7pm. There's no need to bring anything and all the food will be provided. Please contact Liz@holyroodevangelical.org if you have any questions or dietary requirements.

This will be our last meal together before the summer and our next meal is planned for the first Wednesday (4th) in September.

The prayer meetings will continue to be in person (with an online option) during July and August. There will be no refreshments beforehand over the summer.

Women's Bible Study – last one!

This Thursday will be our last in person Bible study for the term. Come along at 11am and we'll look at the last study together. There's no homework or pre-reading to do and all women are welcome - we'd love to see you there!

Summer Holidays and Pulpit Supply

Joe will be on holiday for three Sundays in June and July and is speaking at the Moray Convention in August. Here's a note of who will be taking our services while he's away-

Date	Morning	Evening
30 th June	David Nixon (Carrubbers Christian Centre)	Jon Gemmell (Cornhill Scotland)
7 th July	Jon Gemmell (Cornhill Scotland)	Jon Gemmell (Cornhill Scotland)
14 th July	John Tellis (Word of Life UK)	TBC
4 th August	Bob Akroyd (Free Church of Scotland/ ETS)	Steven Randall (Free Church of Scotland/ ETS)

For any pastoral matters when Joe is away, please contact one of the elders (Aaron Allen, Nick Archer, Alex MacDonald, Murdo Macleod, Mark Malaczynski, Robert Nelson, Alasdair Roberts, Andy Scott, Ernie Shippin, John Stewart or Roy Tatton)

Liz will be on holiday from Monday 8th July until Monday 22nd July. There will be no newsletter or prayer bulletin for these two weeks.

Home Groups

The last Home Groups for this term will be on Sunday 23rd June and they will then take a break over July and August.

Missional Planning Morning + Picnic

On **June 22nd** the Mission Team is organising a strategic planning morning. The hope is to plan a calendar of local missional events for the next year (Autumn-Spring). Anyone interested is welcome to come. The plan is to have a bacon roll at 9.30am and then break into small groups for brainstorming and feedback. We'll think strategically about how to reach specific groups in the area as well as how to make use of strategic seasons such as Freshers Week, Christmas/Easter, etc. The planning and prayer will be done by 12pm.

We'll then head out to the park for a picnic (bring your own) and games. Everyone is welcome for the entire morning or just for the picnic.

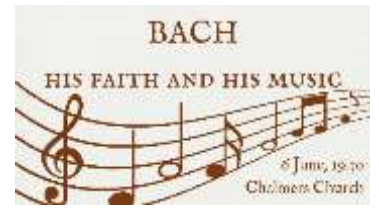
Praying for Tranent



Tim Rawlinson is planning an evening to update people and pray for the work in Tranent on **Thursday 30th May** at 7.30pm on Zoom. This will be an opportunity to meet some of the team and hear first hand about some of the things we've been praying for. If you would like to join, please contact Tim (timrawlinson@gmail.com) and he will send you the details.

Bach – His Faith and His Music

On **6th June**, Sam Orr presents "An evening interspersed with live performances walking through Bach's music showing how his faith in Jesus not only impacted the output of one of the greatest composers on the earth, but the whole history of music as we know it..." The event will take place at Chalmers Church and starts at 7.30pm. For more details and to book, go [here](#).



Church and Community Picnic

For planning reasons, the church picnic has been postponed to **Saturday 7th September**. The location will still be the church building and Montgomery St. park. Please save the date on your calendars.

Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Tuesday: Pickleball and Table Tennis from 7pm (last one for this term!)
- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting in person at 7pm (6.45pm for refreshments) and online
- Thursday:
 - Women's Bible Studies at 11am (in person - last one for this term!)
 - Session Meeting at 7pm (in person)
- Sunday:
 - Communion Service at 10.30am (and livestreamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Equip at 6pm
- Monday:
 - Baby and Toddlers from 10 – 11.30am
 - Co-ordination Group at 7pm on Zoom
 - Mission Team Meeting



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