



Weekly Newsletter: 3rd September 2024

Reflection: The Church as Christ's Church

By Sam Allen

From my kitchen window I look out on the front of a large and finely carved church building. It stands at the top of Easter road, its triangular spire topped by a greeny copper cross. It looks every inch the church, delicate crosses are inscribed above the doorway and a large cross with peeling paint is on the front gate.

For many in Scotland today this is all a church is: it's a building or a sort of religious public institution like a hospital or nursery. It might bury the dead and feed the poor and share optimistic stories of Jesus but there is nothing that is sacred, spiritual or even significant about it. In this common view of the church, the spiritual identity of the church isn't so much denied as ignored; it's not an anti-christian view of the church but instead a non-christian view of the church.

This unspiritual way of viewing the church does not stop at the gates of the church, it can begin to seep into our collective mind in the way that we talk, in the way that we spend our money and in the way that we worship. Certainly we would not say that our church is just a society or just a building, but we so often drift into patterns of behaviour which are not faithful to the bible's teaching of church. And it's not hard to see why, day to day our shared church life makes demands on our resources, our worship can feel repetitive and too often can personalities clash in church. It is when church is tiring and difficult that we retreat into a perspective of church which is comfortable and protects ourselves, a perspective which is unbiblical.

To recover a true vision of our church we need to hear again what God says about the church in His bible; seeing by eyes of faith. Looking at the church without a biblical viewpoint would be rather like receiving a present of jewellery but only admiring the small velvet box it comes in. The beauty is inside and we have to see it to value it!

Much could be said about the church of Christ, about its victory, its fruitbearing, its salvation and its beauty. That we as the church are promised the gift of the comforting and guiding Holy Spirit. That we as the church are the delight of Christ. That we as the church will endure till the end.

But the starting point and finishing point of all thinking about the church must and can only be that the church is united to Christ. That is to say He is our head and we are His body. How often do we think of Holyrood Evangelical Church as Christ's dearly loved church? How often do we remember that Christ died for those who sit in the services alongside us? Is it easy for us to think of each other as brothers and sisters in the Lord?

Everyday we must commit to seeing the church in the way that the bible describes it, commit to thinking God's thoughts after Him.

Wednesday Evening Meals

This Wednesday (4th September) we're looking forward to having a meal together before the prayer meeting. Come from 5.45pm and we'll eat together at 6pm followed by the prayer meeting at 7pm.

Community Picnic – Saturday 7th September

We're looking for an idea of numbers for the picnic. Please sign up [here](#) by Wednesday of this week.

Please bring a blanket to sit on or if you have any garden fold out chairs, please bring them along. If you

have garden chairs, but are not able to come and are happy for us to borrow them, please contact Gilly (gillianpickering@ymail.com).



New Members Classes

In September there will be membership classes for people interested in committing themselves more formally to the mission and communal life of HEC. These classes will be run on Wednesday evenings before the prayer meeting, **starting on 11th September**. This time will be used for a particular reason: the prayer meeting is one of the most important elements of our shared life as a church. On Wednesday nights, prospective members will be able not just to learn more about HEC, but also experience the prayer meeting itself. If anyone has questions about the new members class, please contact Joe.

Book Group

The book group meets on **28th September** at 3.30pm and we will be reading Max Lucado's *Anxious for Nothing*, as recommended by David Nixon. For further details please speak to Annocris (annocris@gmail.com)

HEC's 10th Birthday

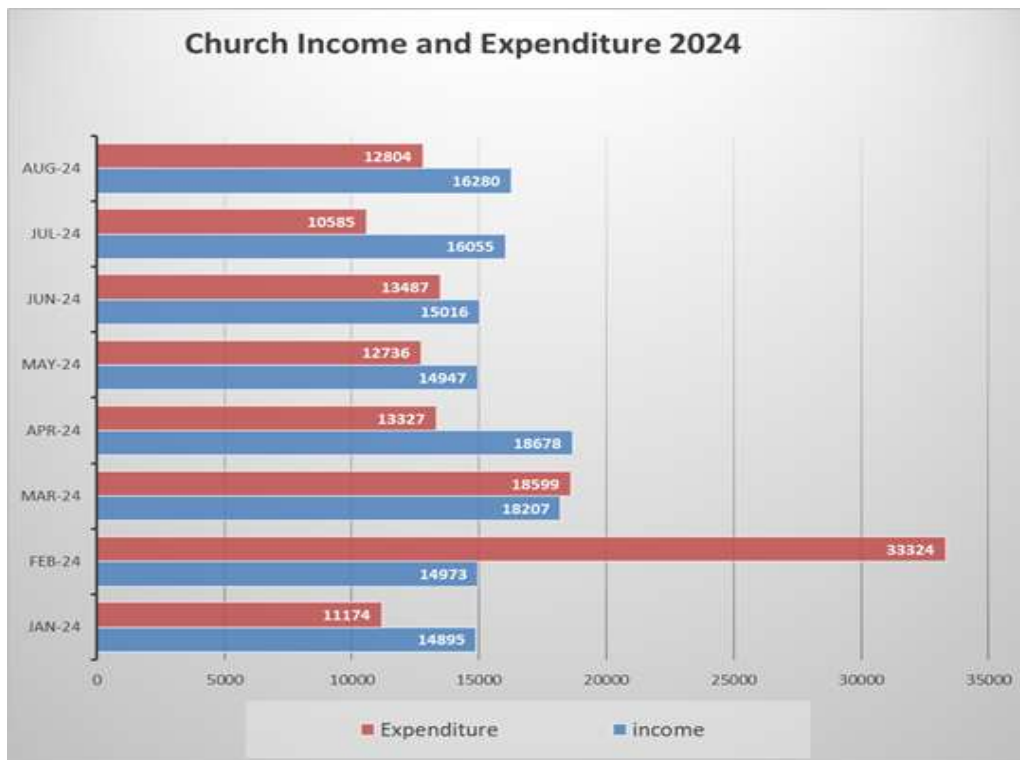
Holyrood Evangelical Church is 10 years old this year! To mark the occasion we're going to have a congregational lunch after the morning service on **Sunday 27th October**. Please save the date!

Finance Update

By Nick Archer

The summer appeal final total came to **£13086** and has been distributed to our missionaries as follows:

- Lorna Ferguson (£5086)
- Hazel and Hannu Sorsamos (£6000)
- James Stewart (£2000)



We can give thanks to God for providing for all our financial needs in Holyrood.

Sharon James – War on Worldviews

WEBINAR

EUROPEAN MISSION FELLOWSHIP

War of the Worldviews

with Sharon James
author, conference speaker, and
Social Policy Analyst for The Christian Institute

How do we stand, and teach others to stand, in the face of the opposing worldviews that increasingly surround us?

Monday 9 September
7.30 - 8.30 pm BST
Meeting ID 345-755-8772

We are invited to join the European Mission Fellowship webinar (Zoom Meeting ID: [345-755-8772](https://us02zoom.us/j/3457558772)) on Monday 9th September as they hear from Dr Sharon James on "War of the Worldviews".

Christians in the UK are living in increasingly hostile times. Many of our friends and colleagues across Europe have already been experiencing this for years, even decades, in different ways – secularism, orthodoxy, suspicion. How do we stand, and how do we teach our children, young people, our church members, new believers how

to stand with confidence in the face of the worldviews that increasingly surround us?

Lamentations - Faith in Ruins

By Jon Gemmell

How do you feel on the darkest day in your nation's history? Your city lies in ruins, its temple desecrated, tens of thousands slaughtered, and everyone but the lowest among you exiled. Amidst this devastation, a harsh truth sinks in: you brought this upon yourselves. God had made a covenant, promising boundless blessings for obedience but warning of unimaginable horrors for disobedience. The Babylonian siege and the eventual sacking of the city are proof that you, as God's people, have failed catastrophically. As you sit in the rubble of Jerusalem, sifting through the debris, you begin to process the unthinkable and grapple with the question: where do you go from here?

Welcome to the world of Lamentations.



Over six Sunday evenings this autumn, we'll take an in-depth look at the book of Lamentations—a harrowingly beautiful collection of poems where God's people search for hope in the aftermath of everything falling apart. This book offers a powerful remedy, teaching us to grieve rightly, lament faithfully, and hope eternally. **We start our series this Sunday 8th September with 'Getting a grip on Lamentations'.**

OMF Edinburgh Event

OMF are having an Edinburgh event on **Saturday 5th October** in Bruntsfield Evangelical Church from 10am until 1pm. The focus will be on the persecuted church in East Asia.

Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Meal together at 6pm followed by the prayer meeting in person at 7pm (and on Zoom)
- Saturday: Community Picnic from 12-3pm in Montgomery Street Park
- Sunday:
 - Morning service at 10.30am – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
 - Evening service at 6pm – Jon Gemmell preaching (live streamed)
- Monday: Baby and Toddlers at 10am



www.holyroodevangelical.org

Incorporated as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Scottish Charity Number SCO44820