

Weekly Newsletter: 1st October 2024

Welcome to New Members

It was a joy to welcome Sam Allen and Matthew Dewar into church membership last month. Here Matthew shares his testimony with us –



Hello, my name is Matthew, and I am studying a Biomedical Sciences degree at the University of Edinburgh. I have recently moved into the Abbeyhill area, and I've been worshipping at Holyrood Evangelical for the last month or so.

I was raised by Christian parents who faithfully taught me the gospel, brought me to church, and set an example for me by their way of life. I do not remember a day when I did not believe Jesus Christ to be Lord. I professed faith at a young age, and tried to live as I thought a Christian should, however, my conscience was, even in primary school, afflicted with feelings of shame. I knew that there were things that I had done which were wrong, and that I was guilty in the sight of God and needed his forgiveness (though I may not have described my situation using these words). I knew that Jesus had died for me but, looking back now, I don't think I had a particularly good grasp of what that really meant.

Over the years, God has slowly been teaching me more of His everlasting love for me in the cross - that Jesus came to die the death that I should have died for all the rebellious things I have done (and will do), exhausting His wrath so that I will never have to bear it. Now, through faith in Jesus, I enjoy peace with God, and know that, because the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead now dwells in me, I will one day rise too and enjoy friendship with God forever.

A Thank You from James Stewart (OMF Singapore)

'Just a note to thank everyone for the very generous gift that has found its way through to my account here. On top of the very warm welcome in June/July and all the kindnesses bestowed then, this is a great help and encouragement. I am very grateful and humbled by your continuing support in this way and by prayer week by week. Thank you again for your vital encouragement in so many ways.'

This Wednesday

We are looking forward to having a meal together as a church family on Wednesday evening. Come from 5.45pm and food will be served at 6pm.

At 7pm, Jon Gemmell will lead the second session of our home group training (you'll have to wait until 30th October for the final session). If you missed last week's session, it's available [here](#) and speak to Liz if you would like one of the handouts.



Jon will teach for 30 minutes and then we'll have 30 minutes of prayer. Due to challenges with the technology, **there won't be a Zoom option for the prayer meeting this week (and on 30th October)** but the training sessions will be live streamed on YouTube. We'll go back to offering the usual Zoom prayer meetings once the training is finished.

Home Groups

Our new home groups will begin on **Wednesday 9th October** and will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Prayer meetings will take place on 1st, 3rd and 5th (if there is one) Wednesdays. Please contact Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) if you would like to join a home group or if you're not sure what home group you're in.

Men's Discipleship at HEC

Do your beliefs feel like a pile of scattered papers? Do you have lingering questions about basic doctrines that never seem to be discussed? Would you like to have a confident faith, one that is built on a clear and concise statement of Biblical truth?

This Autumn we will begin a journey of studying the Westminster Confession of Faith. The hopeful outcome of our meetings will be a clearer, more confident understanding of basic Christian truth.

Option 1: HEC Building

Time: Thursdays, 11am-12pm (**starting 24th October**)

Duration: 8 weeks

Option 2: Lothian Road

Time: Tuesdays, 12pm-1pm

Location: Cafe Nero, 43-45 Lothian Rd, Edinburgh EH1 2DJ

Please contact Joe if this option is of interest; he is seeking the best time and day for this option.

Communion Dates

Joe is away this weekend leading a men's conference with Cross Training Ministries and there will be no communion this Sunday. Our next communion service will be on the first Sunday in November (3rd).

Liz's Holidays

Liz (our administrator) is away on holiday from **5th to 19th October** and there will be no newsletters or prayer bulletins for the next fortnight. If there are any urgent matters while Liz is away, please speak to one of the elders.

Holiday Club – We Need Plastic Bottles!

The Word of Life team have asked us to collect plastic bottles for the **Holiday Club running from 14th to 18th October**. Please can you bring any empty 1 or 2 litre plastic bottles and leave them in the box in the church foyer over the next couple of weeks. Thank you!

Handel's Messiah – 2nd January

Anncris is organising a trip to hear Handel's Messiah at the Usher Hall on **Thursday 2nd January** at 12pm. The Edinburgh Royal Choral Union will be performing it for the 137th time! Please let Anncris (anncris@gmail.com) know by Friday 25th October if you would like tickets. Everyone is welcome!

Book Group – Change of Date

The book group will now meet on **12th October** (and not 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 Anncris (anncris@gmail.com)

Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Meal at 6pm and Home Group Training (live streamed) at 7pm followed by the Prayer Meeting.
- Thursday: Ladies' Bible Studies at 10.30am in the church
- Sunday:
 - Morning service at 10.30am – Tim Rawlinson preaching (live streamed)
 - Evening service at 6pm – Sam Allen preaching (live streamed)
- Monday: Baby and Toddler Group at 10am



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