

Weekly Newsletter: 29th October 2024

Letter from Phil & Lyn Hair - 10th Anniversary Celebration

We're so very sorry that we can't be with you on this special occasion as you celebrate the tenth anniversary of Holyrood Evangelical Church. It would have been wonderful to join with you in worship and then in fellowship as you eat together, however a prior preaching engagement in our own church here in Stirling means that this can't be so.

How good God has been to you as a Fellowship over these past ten years since the decision was taken to leave the Church of Scotland, at not a little cost, and begin life as Holyrood Evangelical Church, meeting first of all in Leith Academy and Portobello Town Hall (my abiding memory is of how grubby the school could be and of how cold the town hall could be – and yet these were special times as God met with us and blessed us in ways too numerous to count)- and then in the building where you now are in Montgomery Street. How faithful God has been to you, not least in the provision of this home and place of worship. You were able to prove that 'God is no man's debtor' as the building was paid for in a such a relatively short time along with all the additional finance which meant that it could be upgraded and decorated.

As I've reflected on these years following the departure from the Church of Scotland, and the leaving (the loss of) the Holyrood Abbey building in London Road, there were two passages of Scripture which were comfortingly and reassuringly special to me. The first in Matthew 16, and Jesus words to his disciples – "I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it." I quoted these words at the Edinburgh Presbytery when I resigned my status as a Church of Scotland minister, saying that 'Jesus didn't promise to perpetuate a denomination, but to build his church.' The second in Revelation 4 and 5 which I expounded at our last evening service in Holyrood Abbey, underlining that no matter what, God is still on throne and is advancing his plans and purposes for the church in a hostile world. I quoted the words of the chorus...

'God is still on the throne and he will remember his own!
Though trials upset you and burdens distress you, he will never leave you alone.
God is still on the throne, and he will remember his own;
his promise is true – he will not forget you! God is still on the throne.'

And then, the words of the hymn...

'Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?
Jesus, we know, and he is on the throne.'

This is still the case ten years later – and how we rejoice to see the way in which, since we left you some five years ago now, God has prospered and blessed you under Joe’s leadership and ministry. And he will continue to do so because he is your faithful, good, wise and loving Shepherd. Jesus said (Luke 12 and verse 32) – “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom” – and may you see this, ever increasingly, in the days ahead.

This comes to you with our fondest love and deepest affection,

Phil & Lyn Hair

This Wednesday – Home Group Training

On Wednesday, Jon Gemmell will lead us through our last training session for Home Groups and we’ll have a time of prayer together. Starts at 7pm and refreshments will be served from 6.45pm.

This Saturday – Mission Prayer Meeting

This Saturday at 9am, we’re having a Mission Prayer Meeting with the Holyrood missionaries (Lorna, James and the Sorsamos). This is a chance to hear an update from the missionaries and pray for them. We’re meeting on Zoom and contact Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) if you would like to receive the Zoom codes.

Christmas Choir

By Norma Shippin

Christmas is coming - sooner than you think - and that means it’s time for the Holyrood Christmas Choir to get practicing for the Carol Service on Sunday 15 December at 6pm.

We will practice at the end of the morning service for an hour **starting this Sunday**. Singing in a choir is one of the great joys in life and if you would like to join you will be very welcome! You don’t need to be able to read music - just be able to hold a musical line. If you would like to join just turn up at the first practice or speak to Norma or Emma to get more information.

Warm Space

Warm Space will be restarting on **Monday 4th November** from 12 noon to 3pm each week. We are still looking for some volunteers for our teams, please contact Bill Wright or Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) if you’re able to help.

Book Group

This month the book group is reading The Unquenchable Flame by Michael Reeves. Our meeting is **on 30th November** at 3.30 p.m. at 9 Craigentenny Avenue. Please speak to Anncris if you would like more details.

Women's Discipleship at HEC

Here are some dates to note for the women's discipleship over the coming months –

- This Thursday will be our last Bible study for this block. Come along on **Thursday morning at 10.30am** and a huge thank you to Norma for leading us so well!
- The following Thursday (**7th November**) **we're going for lunch at 12 noon** to [Rishi's Indian Aroma](#) (100 Lindsay Road, Edinburgh, EH6 4TZ). All the women in the church are welcome, please let Liz know if you're able to come.
- Our next Ladies' Breakfast will be on **Saturday 16th November** at 9.30am. We're not having a speaker this time to allow us to have more time to share and to spend time together in God's word. More details will follow soon.
- We're planning to run four Advent Bible studies online on **Tuesday evenings 7-8 pm** starting on 19th November. Look out for the Zoom codes!
- Our next block of in person Bible studies will start on **Thursday 9th January 2025** and run for 6 weeks. Save the dates!
- Our first Ladies Breakfast of 2025 will be on **15th February** and we're delighted that Lorna Ferguson will be our speaker.

Update on Holiday Club



profession of faith from the week.

A big thank you to all of the HEC members who prayed for the holiday club that happened earlier in October. The event was a rich blessing to many kids. About 20 kids showed up each day. Some of these were from Christian homes; some were from the Easter Rd. area. The team from Georgia could not have been better prepared or more loving. Several of the children commented on how much they enjoyed the holiday club. We have also heard of one pro-

Please give thanks to the Lord for the people from Flat Creek Church who came and partnered with Word of Life to run the event. Also, give thanks for David Kunzi and Alex Burroughs who did all of the planning on the UK side. Finally, give thanks for the Mission Team for coordinating things for HEC.

Joe's Teaching Trip to Argentina

Joe will be headed (with Dan) to Argentina from **November 7th-19th** in order to do a week of teaching at the Word of Life Bible College there. Monday-Friday, he will be teaching on the topic of "Beholding the Glory of God". He will also be doing some outreach work to men under the banner of Cross Training Ministries.

For more about the Word of Life programme in Argentina, see <https://bbpargentina.com/>. Please pray for Joe and Dan while they are away.

Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Home Group Training with Jon Gemmell at 7pm (refreshments from 6.45pm)
- Thursday: Men's and Women's Bible Studies at 10.30am in the church
- Friday: HEC Youth – contact Andy and Liz for more details
- Saturday: Mission Prayer Meeting at 9am on Zoom.
- Sunday:
 - Communion service at 10.30am – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
 - Christmas Choir practice after the morning service
 - Evening service at 6pm – Jon Gemmell preaching on Lamentations (live streamed)
- Monday:
 - Baby and Toddler Group at 10am
 - Warm Space at 12 noon
 - Mission Team Meeting



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