

Weekly Newsletter: 10th December 2024

Thank You Letter from William Philip

Dear Joe

I wanted to write to thank you and the whole fellowship at Holyrood for your wonderful welcome to us as a family, and the provision for us at the thanksgiving service for our mother on Thursday. Please do pass on our sincere and profound thanks to all who worked so hard to make the service so smooth, so easy and so encouraging for all who were there.

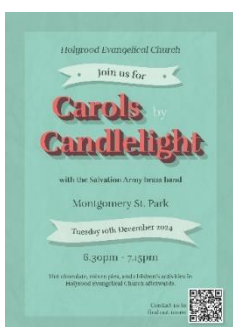
From the moment we walked through the door, it felt like we were coming home - and indeed we were, for in profound ways, Holyrood has always been our spiritual home. And though the building is less familiar to us (though not to our mother, who was so thrilled when it was purchased) the reality of the church just felt the same as it was decades ago when we grew up there. The singing was as we remember Holyrood singing to be - simply the best. And the sense of the presence of the Lord among his people was palpable - which helped me greatly, in an assignment which I knew would be hard, but one I wanted very much to be able to carry through. All in all it was a hard day for us all, but one of great blessing.

Please would you thank the whole fellowship for their wonderful welcome and for all their hard work, and for the ongoing fellowship in the gospel of our great God and Saviour.

With love in Christ, William J U Philip

Copies of The Meaning of Christmas by James Philip were handed out at the Thanksgiving Service, please contact Liz if you would like a copy.

Carols by Candlelight



This is happening tonight! Carols by Candlelight with the Salvation Army Band from 6.30 – 7.15pm.

We'll hopefully (weather permitting!) be over in the park for some carol singing and then there will be hot drinks, mince pies and kids activities in the church building.

If you're coming along, please bring a torch with you

Christmas Plans

Here's a note of the plans for over the Christmas season:

- Tonight: Carols by Candlelight 6.30-7.15pm (more details below)
- This Wednesday: Last Home Groups for the term. They're back on 8th January 2025!
- Sunday 15th December:
 - Morning Service at 10.30am featuring the Sunday Club
 - Christmas Carol Service at 6pm
- Monday 16th December: Baby & Toddler Nativity and Christmas Party at 10am
- Sunday 22nd and 29th December:
 - Morning service at 10.30am
 - Evening service at 6pm
- Hogmanay Ceilidh: Tuesday 31st December from 7-10pm

There will be no worship service on Christmas Day and no prayer meeting on New Year's Day.

Christmas Appeal 2024

After receiving suggestions from the church family, the elders have chosen the following projects for the Christmas Appeal this year.

- Onesimus Fund – Cornhill Scotland. Helping to train useful gospel workers for Scotland and Beyond
- Delhi Bible Institute – supporting DBI's 'Loving The Poorest' appeal
- Merchant City Church Plant – supporting Neil Longwe and David Trimble as they plant a church in the Merchant City in Glasgow
- Bethany Christian Trust – supporting their Buy-a-Bed campaign
- Friends International – to help provide trips for international students in 2025
- Sparkle Sisters – a Christian led charity born out of the desire to share the love of Jesus and enhance the lives of women, of all faiths or none, who have in some way been affected by homelessness and/or abuse. See their website for more details - <https://sparkle-sisters.org/>

Cornhill Scotland and Delhi Bible Institute with each receive 30% of the total raised. The remaining 40% will be split equally between the other projects.

The Christmas Appeal will be open throughout December and as usual people can transfer money directly into the church bank account <https://holyroodevangelical.org/giving/> or place donations into the offering box marked Christmas Appeal. Thank you!

Hogmanay Ceilidh

This year we're planning to have a Hogmanay Ceilidh as a church family on **31st December from 7-10pm**. Serenna and friends will be providing the music and it's a chance to get together at the end of the year and enjoy time together. Keep the date free!

Cornhill Bible Course

A brand new **Cornhill Bible Course** launches in **January 2025**! This is a fantastic opportunity to learn about God's word. It is designed for those who are keen to develop in the joy of studying and teaching the bible, but who cannot (yet!) commit to doing the full Cornhill Training Course. The course is delivered by Cornhill Scotland lecturers and runs on Saturday mornings from 08:00 to 09:15 (GMT) for six weeks on Zoom.



The first module will **focus on the Gospels**, particularly Mark and Luke.

- 11th, 18th, 25th January 2025 – Mark with Andy Gemmill
- 1st, 8th & 15th February 2025 – Luke with Jon Gemmill

The course will:

- ask what a gospel is and investigate the focus and form of Mark & Luke in particular
- give an understanding of the authorial purpose within each gospel
- take a specific look at individual passages and sections to give a flavour of the whole.

You are welcome to join the course from anywhere in Scotland, the UK or the world. The cost is £30. There are no pre-requisites – just an internet connection and a desire to take the bible seriously and learn from it. To join the course please register [here](#).

Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Tuesday: Carols by Candlelight with the Salvation Army band from 6.30pm
- Wednesday: Home Groups
- Friday: HEC Youth Christmas Extravaganza from 7-9pm in the church
- Sunday:
 - Worship service at 10.30am – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
 - Carol Service at 6pm – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
- Monday: Baby and Toddler Nativity and Christmas Party at 10am



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