

Weekly Newsletter: 6 May 2025

Students Moving On – Abigail, Matthew and Serenna

We are really sad to be saying goodbye to three wonderful students who are leaving us at the end of this term. They have each written to let us know what their next steps are and how we can be praying for them.

Abigail Charlton



To my brothers and sisters at Holyrood Evangelical Church,

Thank you so much for the loving way you received me when I first started coming to HEC in October 2023. I thought I knew what Christian hospitality looked like before I came here but even my positive experiences were blown away by the generosity of this church. I counted a run of 11 consecutive Sundays I was invited out for lunch, a lot of the time spontaneously. Every student that encounters this church is very blessed indeed. I have truly benefitted from the many opportunities Holyrood has provided to deepen my faith, through consistent preaching, the homegroup Bible studies and one on one study and prayer.

It saddens me to say I will be leaving Edinburgh at the end of this month as my studies are reaching an end. I will complete a final three week placement in Perth and then head back home to Gloucester for the Summer. The main priority while I am there is to learn to drive as having your own transport is a requirement for most jobs in Speech and Language Therapy. Then once I've got my license, I will reevaluate the job situation.

Please pray for me to trust in God for the next steps as I navigate driving and looking for work. It all seems quite open ended at the moment, so I'd appreciate prayer for reliance on God in the uncertainty and that wherever I end up, I would find a loving church family to be committed to and serve with.

In Christ, Abigail

Matthew Dewar

Hello church family,

It's been a real blessing to be part of the fellowship at HEC for this short while. I've been especially encouraged by how welcoming the church has been- not only in how you've welcomed me, but also in how recent

newcomers have been welcomed. Although Christ's church is a family whether we feel like it or not, I have definitely felt the 'family-ness' of the church here at Holyrood, and I'm thankful for this.

God willing, I'll be moving back home to Fife at the end of May to begin a medical degree. This is going to involve looking for a new church- and unlike this year, I won't have one 2-minutes away from my front door! With Fife being more rural, churches are a bit more spread out, so I'll likely need to travel to another town. I'd really appreciate prayer for wisdom as I discern which church to attend, so that I will be able to serve, and also be served well by others.



I'm also considering how I can make good use of my time in Fife when I'm not studying. Please pray that God would give me the opportunity to get involved in the local community; that He'd help me to love the people He places in my life; and that He might give me opportunities to share the gospel with those who do not yet have their hope in Jesus.

Blessings, Matthew

Serenna MacLellan



Dear Holyrood church family,

It has been a joy to be part of the fellowship here at Holyrood these past three years. I have known and seen your Christ like welcome and hospitality, and learnt what it is to be known and challenged to serve Christ more fully, whether while sitting under God's word, serving beside or sharing company over Sunday lunches. I have been particularly encouraged to see you pray consistently and intentionally for God's work here, and further afield.

I am also thankful for your faithful prayers in my own life and as I finish my degree here in Edinburgh I would particularly appreciate prayers for the future ahead. I have my final recital on the 13th of May and God willing will be moving to London in September to start Master of Music in Performance at the Royal College of London. This will involve finding accommodation and funding, however I would particularly like prayers for wisdom as I find a new church where I can serve and be served well during my time there, as well as for opportunities to be a light in the competitive conservatoire environment.

Blessings, Serenna

Sam Allen

Sam has been our Ministry Apprentice since August last year and his final Sunday in the role will this Sunday. Give thanks for all the ways that Sam has served and blessed us as a church family. He will still be around in Holyrood for the next couple of month. Pray for wisdom for him as he seeks God's leading about the future.

Prayer Meetings

This **Wednesday** we will be having a Japanese meal together at 6pm (come from 5.45pm) and the prayer meeting will start at 7pm. We're looking forward to Lorna Ferguson sharing with us about the work in Japan and what her plans are when she returns. Please come along if you can.

This will be our last meal together before the summer break and keep an eye on the newsletter for details of when our monthly meals will resume.

On **Wednesday 21 May** we're looking forward to Jon Gemmell teaching on Ezra chapters 5-10 to help us with our Home Group studies. Please save the date!

Is There Any Hope for the Future?

We're looking forward to having Steve Osmond (from Solas) come and speak in Holyrood **this Friday** from 7.30-9pm. He'll look at the topic '**Is There Any Hope for the Future?**' This is a great event to invite friends to and there are flyers available in the church. Please take some and spread the word!

If you've not heard of [Solas](#) (the Gaelic word for "light") before, they are a Christian charity based in Scotland but working across the whole of the UK. The Solas vision is to share the good news of Jesus *persuasively* and equip Christians for evangelism *practically*.



Understanding Eve – Women's Conference



We're really looking forward to our **Women's Conference 'Understanding Eve'** on **Saturday 24 May** from 9.30am until 12.45pm.

There are plenty of different answers in our world to the question, 'what is a woman?' In our main talk, Sarah Allen will help us see how God's ancient word can make sense of our modern lives today. There will also be a couple of seminar options – one from Sarah on midlife and Käete Wiese on how we respond to our fears of 'what if' with the truth of 'what is'.

10 of those are coming to do a bookstall for us and there will be lots of coffee, nice things to eat and the chance to catch up!

We've opened the conference up to other churches so feel free to invite friends and the cost is £5. This isn't just a conference for the younger women in the church, it's for all women so please sign up and come along! For more details, go [here](#).

Holidays

Joe and the family are on holiday from Tuesday 13 May until Wednesday 21 May. Please contact one of the elders for any pastoral matters when Joe is away. We're very thankful to Tim Rawlinson (Tranent Community Church) and Jon Gemmell for taking our services on Sunday 18 May.

Liz is off on Monday and Tuesday next week so there will be no newsletter. The next newsletter will be on Tuesday 20 May.

Book Group

This month the women's book group will be meeting on Saturday 31 May at 3.30 p.m. and we are reading Justin Brierley's book *The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God*. For further information please contact Anncri (anncrisr@gmail.com).

Annual General Meeting

Our church AGM and prayer meeting will take place on **Wednesday 4 June at 7pm**. Please save the date and come along.

A Thank You from the Johnson's

It was great to be able to meet the Johnsons over the Easter weekend. They were given a gift from the church as a contribution towards their travel expenses. They write "We are so grateful...We are so encouraged and thankful for Holyrood. We felt so welcomed, loved and cared for. Thank you all for the gift and for your constant prayers. We are humbled by such care".

Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Meal at 6pm and Prayer Meeting at 7pm (separate online option)
- Thursday: Women's Bible Study at 10.30-11.30am
- Friday: Is There Any Hope for the Future? 7.30 – 9pm
- Sunday:
 - Morning service at 10.30am – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
 - Evening service at 6pm – Jon Gemmell preaching (live streamed)
- Monday: Baby and Toddlers from 10-11.30am



www.holyroodevangelical.org

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