

## Weekly Newsletter: 20 May 2025

### New Members – John and Margaret Pickering

We are delighted to be warmly welcomed into fellowship with you all in HEC and to make it our spiritual home.

I, (John) was brought up in a Christian home and am deeply indebted to my parents for their teaching, example and testimony (Dad, a Crusader leader and lay-preacher). Mum's father was Rev John Rigley, the Baptist Minister in Stirling (1938-1956) who made a profound and lasting impression on me. My second birthday (age 12 years) was one Sunday morning on 4th October 1959. Returning home after the morning service, while talking to Dad, without any forewarning, the Holy Spirit suddenly shone a light into my heart and mind and in response I instantaneously yielded to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Attendance at High Barnet Baptist Church in my late teens where Rev George Lazenby was the Minister, introduced me to expository preaching.

I, (Margaret) didn't come from a Christian background. At the age of 15 years I moved to Stirling High School from Turriff Academy in Aberdeenshire. For the two years I was there I was befriended by some of the Scripture Union Group members who occasionally took me to a Saturday evening club. I left school to study in Aberdeen where for most of my first year I didn't attend anything Christian, until in June I answered the phone to an unknown old lady who, with great forthrightness, asked whether I was a Christian! This challenging and uninvited intrusion ultimately led me to becoming a Christian! In my next three years I got involved in Christian Union activities and enjoyed worshipping in Gilcomston South Church where Rev William Still was an excellent Bible teacher and pastor to a young Christian. His ministry has laid the foundation for my Christian life.

John and Margaret met each other in 1977 while running a children's Holiday Club in the Cornton area of Stirling and became an 'item' in 1978! We have two offspring - Gilly who you know, and Thomas, married to Claire with our two grandsons Sam and Joe.

The daily challenge of our Christian lives is to live out what we believe and profess. For us, discipleship is a matter of daily consecration and surrender, not a status based on a decision made yesterday. In particular, discipleship means showing the evidence of God's work of grace by his Spirit bearing the fruit(s) of sanctification and



increasingly to realise and enjoy the presence of the Risen Lord Jesus and appreciate the blessings and benefits and privilege and wonder of knowing God as our loving Heavenly Father. But also, there are the challenges to see and use opportunities for service and witness and ...to persevere to the end!

Our favourite Bible verse? Galatians 2:20

## A Note from Lorna Ferguson



Hi Everyone. Thank you so much for your warm welcome during my three weeks at Holyrood. It was lovely to be at the various activities Holyrood runs during the week as well as the Sunday services. It is great to be part of a church which values both the ongoing discipleship of its members and reaching out to others who don't know Jesus yet. I really enjoyed catching up with many of you and getting to know some of you who are newer to the church. Sorry to those I didn't manage to chat with. I hope to be at a couple more services before returning to Japan, including my recommissioning service on 3 August, so hopefully we can chat then.

Thank you so much for your interest in and prayers for the work in Japan. If you would like to get my monthly prayer letter emailed to you directly, please let me know. Liz ([Liz@holyroodevangelical.org](mailto:Liz@holyroodevangelical.org)) can give you my contact details if you don't have them. Blessings, Lorna

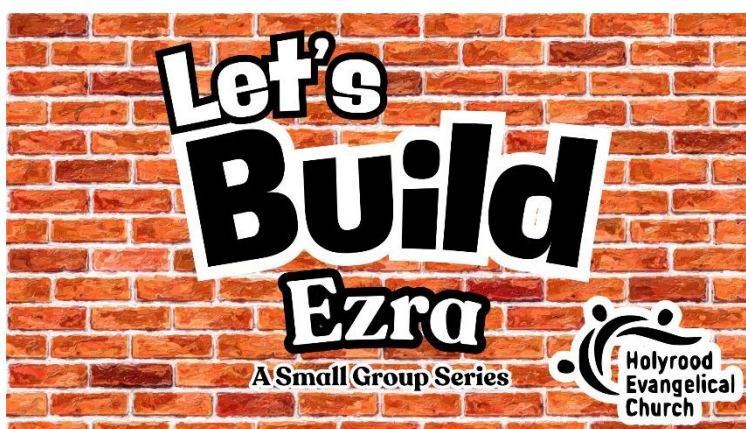
## This Wednesday – Home Group Training

Ezra is a book we can't afford to ignore.

It tells the gripping story of God's prodigal people returning to the promised land. It's about the rebuilding of a holy nation, driven by the power of God's Word. It's a tale of bold pioneers whose hearts were stirred, of fierce opposition, deep disappointment, and spiritual compromise. Ezra offers no neat, happy ending—but instead reveals our desperate need for the Lord Jesus and the New Covenant He institutes.

Join us this Wednesday from 7-8pm for our Home Group Training evening, where we'll be unpacking chapters 5-10 together. We'll explore the context, structure and message of these chapters—and think about some handy hints to help us hear Ezra's message more clearly. If you could bring pens and highlighters with you that would be excellent!

If you're not able to join us in person in the church, the training will also be livestreamed and available on YouTube.



**There will be no prayer bulletin this week** because of the training. If you have any questions, please contact [Liz@holyroodevangelical.org](mailto:Liz@holyroodevangelical.org)

## Women's Conference – this Saturday



We're really looking forward to our **Women's Conference 'Understanding Eve'** this Saturday 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](#).

## Women's Bible Studies

This Thursday will be our final Bible study together in this block, come along to the church from 10.30 to 11.30am. The following Thursday (29 May) we will be going out for lunch together. All women are welcome!

Please let [Liz@holyroodevangelical.org](mailto:Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) know if you can come for lunch so that we have an idea of numbers.

## 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 AnnCRIS ([anncrisr@gmail.com](mailto:anncrisr@gmail.com)).

## Summer Appeal 2025

Each year our Summer Appeal goes towards the support of our three Holyrood missionaries – Lorna Ferguson (serving with OMF in Japan), James Stewart (serving with OMF in Singapore) and the Sorsamo Family (serving with Wycliffe in Finland). The appeal starts this week and runs until August. There are two ways you can give:

1. Electronically via BACS payment to the church account: Sort Code 80-22-60, Account number 12345666 and use the reference 'Summer Appeal'
2. By cheque or cash in the offering box marked 'Summer Appeal'

Please speak to Nick Archer if you have any questions about how to give. Thank you!

## 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.

## Gift Aid

If anyone gives their offerings under the Government Gift Aid scheme, and requires a note from the church to confirm the amount they have given in the last tax year, please drop Nick Archer an e-mail [nickandjean@googlemail.com](mailto:nickandjean@googlemail.com) or text. Nick will provide the information needed. Thanks

## Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Home Group Training 7-8pm (livestreamed)
- Thursday:
  - Women's Bible Study at 10.30-11.30am (last one)
  - Session Meeting at 7pm
- Saturday: Women's Conference from 9.45am-12.45pm
- Sunday:
  - Morning service at 10.30am – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
  - HEC Youth from 5-6pm
  - Evening service at 6pm – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
- Monday:
  - Baby and Toddlers from 10-11.30am
  - Co-ordination Group 7-8pm on Zoom



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