

A photograph of a stone church building with a large arched window and a cross on the roof. A flowering tree with white and pink blossoms is in the foreground on the right.

Weekly Newsletter: 27 May 2025

Updates for Summer

By Joe Barnard

Summer is quickly upon us, not just in terms of the season, but in terms of the change of pace that comes with church life in June, July, and August. There are several updates to give before we step into the month of June.

First, save the date for the **Community Picnic that will happen on Saturday, June 21st**. Many will remember the event from last year. The format will be the same. *Oink* will bring a hog roast; the whole neighbourhood will be invited; and we'll have a tasty meal while also organising some activities for children and youth in the park. Last year was a success in terms of numbers and fun. Let's pray for the same this year.

Second, as usual, **home groups will take a break over July and August**. In place of these meetings, we'll have a prayer meeting in the church building every Wednesday night for both of the months. Please take advantage of these gatherings. Prayer meetings at Holyrood are not like a side salad, but a basic meal. We want to be a congregation whose members keep three time slots blocked out on their weekly calendars: Sunday 10:30am, Sunday 6:00pm, and Wednesday 7:00pm. These meetings are as important for our fellowship as sitting around the dinner table is for a family. They keep us connected to one another and in-step with God.

It needs to be mentioned that there will be no Zoom prayer meeting in July and August. I realise some will be disappointed by this. The logistics make it difficult to run this over the summer when lots of people are on holiday.

Third, **the Barnard family will be away** from the end of June through most of July visiting family in the States. Expect us to come back sunburned and relaxed. Most of our time will be spent in Covington, Louisiana, where we lived prior to Edinburgh. We'll also take a trip to the beach in Alabama for Anna's family reunion (her mum's side). Grateful to have Jon Gemmell, Joshua Kellard, John Pickering and others preaching when I'm away.

Otherwise, one of the things I hope to do in the next few weeks is to introduce a few of the core ministry teams of Holyrood to the congregation. It's always helpful for members to know – not just what's happening – but key people and teams involved in the life of the church. This week I'll introduce you to **the Mission Team**.

The Mission Team has a double-purpose. On the one hand, the Mission Team enables us to be on mission together in the Easter Rd. area. Most of us do not live anywhere near the church building. This can make it very difficult for us to pursue local outreach, individually or congregationally. In view of this challenge, the Mission Team tries to set up the congregation with events that give us more visibility and evangelistic opportunity among the people around the church. In the past couple of years, this team has done an enormous amount of work planning the Community Week of 2024, the annual Carols by Candlelight event in the park, Community Picnics and one-off events, and also thinking strategically about student outreach. Honestly, it's amazing to think of how much we've been blessed over the last few years by the labours of this group.

On the other hand, the Mission Team is also the missionary support team. There are three main missionaries supported by Holyrood: Lorna Ferguson, the Sorsamo family, and James Stewart. The Mission Team makes sure that we are caring for these missionaries by prayer and financial support.

In terms of who's who, Gillian Pickering leads the Mission Team. Other members are Susan Holloway, Shona MacDonald, Daniel Trail, Hayley Macaskill, Jean Archer, and me.

Let's remember one another as we go through our week. The call to be a community of love is something that happens only as each one of us takes time to visit, pray for, and serve others in the church. Is there someone on your mind, who you've not seen for a while at a church meeting? Why not turn that query into a text message or phone call? Jesus great commandment is that we love one another. Let's fulfil that beautiful calling by looking after each other this week.

A Note from Sam Allen

To the Holyrood Church Family

A huge thank you is in order for the friendship, encouragement, and care you've shown me during my time as a ministry apprentice this past year. It has been a joyful and really rewarding time and being part of this church has hugely changed my understanding and appreciation of the work of Christ in the local church. I have grown in my own confidence and abilities, and trust that I have been shaped into a better church member and perhaps one day minister. I'm grateful to Joe and Liz and all the Eldership for the opportunities I've had to grow, learn, and be part of what God is doing here at Holyrood. As I now seek the Lord's guidance about what the next step might be, I would really value your prayers.

With love and thanks, Sam

Book Group

This month the women's book group will be meeting **this Saturday 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 (anncris@gmail.com).

Abbeyhill Baptist Church Induction

Andy Harding will be inducted as the Pastor at Abbeyhill Baptist Church on **Saturday 7 June at 3pm**. Please be praying for the church family at Abbeyhill and for Andy and Odele as they take on this role.

If you would like to go, please sign up via this link to help with planning https://www.tickettailor.com/check-out/view-event/id/5861730/chk/47b3/?modal_widget=true&widget=true

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 runs until the beginning of 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.

Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Home Groups
- Thursday:
 - Women's lunch at Vittorias at 12.30pm (contact Liz@holyroodevangelical.org if you'd like to come along)
 - Communication Team Meeting at 7.30pm
- Saturday: Book Group at 3.30pm
- Sunday:
 - Morning service at 10.30am – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
 - Evening service at 6pm – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
- Monday: Baby and Toddlers from 10-11.30am



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