

Weekly Newsletter

17th March 2026



Holyrood
Church

Church Update

By Joe Barnard

Encounters with Jesus

Those in home groups will know that we're taking part in the Passion for Life drive for evangelism over the Easter weekend. Several churches in the [East of Scotland Gospel Partnership](#) will be putting on events to reach non-Christians.

Our event is called "Encounters with Jesus" and will take place on the Thursday before Easter (2nd April) at 7:30pm.

On the evening, four people from the congregation (Emma Macleod, Christy Raj, Josh Strike, and Ali Rankin) will share stories about their life with Jesus. Content will range from how they first became Christians to what it looks like to walk with Jesus in day-to-day life. There will also be Easter treats served on the night.

This will be part of an Easter weekend that will also include a Good Friday service, an Easter Egg Hunt on the Saturday, and Easter services on Sunday. Please think about people you might want to invite to these events. Flyers will be made available to hand out from Sunday.

Good News from the Barnard Family

The Barnards have been applying for indefinite leave to remain in the UK. They were granted this on Monday. A lot of work has gone into the application. Let's give thanks for those who have helped in the process and for the happy result.

Appointment of New Elders

After prayer and consideration, the session is looking to ordain two new elders whom it deems qualified and suitable. They are Ali Rankin and Andrew Moore (pictured). Both Ali and Andrew are longstanding members of Holyrood, known and respected by the church family. The current session includes Joe Barnard, Andy Scott, Ernie Shippin, Murdo Macleod, John Stewart, Alastair Roberts, Roy Tatton, Mark Malaczynski, Aaron Allen, Nick Archer, and Alex Macdonald.



It's important that the session has the congregation's support in appointing new elders. If anyone has any objections to either candidate, they are free to state their objections to the elders. The session meets this Thursday [19th] at 7pm in the building. If no relevant objection regarding life or doctrine is made or substantiated, the ordination of new elders will take place during the morning service on Sunday, 29th March.





For those new to Holyrood, the elders in the church are responsible for spiritually shepherding the congregation. Their responsibilities include modelling the Christian life, pastoring the congregation, discerning and promoting the vision and mission of the church, safeguarding the integrity of the church (both spiritually and institutionally), and training future leaders.

This is an exciting moment in our life as a congregation. It's been a very long time since new elders were appointed. This is yet another indication of the fresh work that God is doing among us.

New Church Website

Our new website is now online! It has been thoughtfully designed and we are very grateful to Mark for all his hard work. Please take a look at it [here](#) and the prayer bulletin, newsletter & elders' minutes are under the "Resources" menu, then go to "Member Information". If you have any questions, please contact liz@holyroodchurch.org

Pat Urquhart – Funeral Details

Pat's funeral will be on Thursday 19th March at 1pm at Knox Free Church, Tulloch Terrace, Perth. The service will be livestreamed [here](#). The burial will be at 2.30pm. The family are organising flowers and if anyone wants to donate on the day there will be a collection for the Burkina church.

Ladies' Brunch – this Saturday

We're looking forward to getting together as women in the church family for brunch on **Saturday 21st March**. We'll eat together at **10.30am** (not 10am as previously advertised!) and then have time in God's word. It's open to all women, so please come and join us even if you're new to Holyrood or have been coming for decades!

We'll finish up by **12 noon** and contact AnnCRIS (anncris@gmail.com) if you haven't already told her you're coming!

Men's Event – Friday 27th March

Our next men's event is on **Friday 27th March**. The plan is to meet at the church at **7.20pm**, leave at 7.30pm for a short walk up along Regent Road and then down to the Edinburgh Street Food Market (approx 30mins). We can then get a drink, pudding etc. before heading back along London Road towards the church. Contact Alex Macdonald for further details (alexmacdonaldd@googlemail.com)





Fundraising Ceilidh – Saturday 28th March

Hey, it's Hannah and I'm fundraising for a trip I'm taking to northwest Africa from 8th – 22nd May. I'm visiting missionaries that our church supports (the Johnsons) to get an idea of what they do. I'm super excited to have this opportunity to visit a new country and see the work God is doing there! I'm having a ceilidh on **Saturday 28th March at 7pm** to fundraise for my flights and visa and would love you to come!

Please pray for me as I head off in May, for safety in travel, and for God to be continuing to work in this country. Thank you so much!



Hosting Internationals at Easter

In the week leading up to Easter (29th March – 2nd April) and over the Easter weekend, Friends International are looking for people to host a few international students in their homes for an Easter meal. It is being advertised as a chance to connect with locals and hear how people here celebrate Easter. We are hoping that these students then come along to a Good Friday or Easter Sunday service as well, to hear the message of Christ's death and resurrection.

If you would be willing to host 3-6 students, please email to edinburgh@friendsinternational.uk with the following information:

- How many students could you host?
- What date and time would you like to host?
- What is your address? We'll only share the Post Code on the sign up, but will send the full address in the follow-up email.
- Do you need any help with any of this?

Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting 7-8pm with an online option
- Thursday: Session Meeting from 7pm in the church
- Saturday:
 - Holyrood Youth from 3pm (contact Liz@holyroodchurch.org for more details)
 - Ladies' Brunch from 10.30am to 12 noon.
- Sunday:
 - Worship Service at 10.30am – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
 - Evening Service at 6pm – Jon Gemmell preaching (live streamed)
- Monday: Baby and Toddler Group from 10am – 11.30am

