

Weekly Newsletter

11th August 2026



Holyrood
Church

Ruth – Relentless Redemption

By Jon Gemmell

Ruth is a dearly loved book, and rightly so. It is one of the finest short stories ever written. Tender, vivid and beautifully crafted, it has been cherished by generations of readers.

Yet, for all our familiarity with Ruth, we may still struggle to explain what the book is doing in the Bible. Why has God given it to us? What unique contribution does it make to the unfolding story of Scripture?



Is Ruth a defence of David's ancestry and his central place in the Old Testament? Is it a bridge carrying us out of the dark and downward spiral of Judges? Does Boaz show us what a faithful Israelite ought to look like? Is Ruth herself a glimpse of God's unfolding missionary purpose as a Moabite woman is welcomed into the covenant community? Or is the book doing all these things and much more besides?

Over four Sunday evenings, we will journey together through this much treasured book. We will discover that beneath its apparent simplicity lies a wonderfully rich account of God's work and God's ways. Ruth connects famine and fullness, exile and return, bitterness and blessing, Judges and David, and ultimately the whole great story of God's redemption.

There is far more going on here than we might imagine.

My hope is that Ruth will become for us more than a quaint and familiar tale. It is a dynamic and potent revelation of the wisdom of God at work in the world. In ordinary lives, painful circumstances and seemingly insignificant choices, His *relentless redemption* is quietly moving history towards His glorious purposes.

Please do join us on Sunday evenings as we open this wonderful book together.

Chapter 1 – **The Bitter Return** (16th August)

Chapter 2 – **The Audacious Trust** (23rd August)

Chapter 3 – **The Courageous Request** (30th August)

Chapter 4 – **The Realised Hope** (6th September)



Prayer Meeting – this Wednesday

This Wednesday at the prayer meeting we'll be having our 'Back to School' focus and praying for all our children, young people and teachers. Come and join us from 7-8pm in the building.

Joe's Annual Leave

Joe's off on annual leave from **Tuesday 11th to Friday 21st August** and is over in the US. Please contact one of the elders for any urgent matters while he's away. We're very grateful to Jon Gemmell for taking our services on Sunday 16th August.

Jude Moulds – Sunday 23rd August

We're delighted that Jude Moulds will be with us on **Sunday 23rd August**. Jude serves in South East Asia and Joe is going to interview after the evening service. We'll finish the service at 7pm, grab a cup of tea or coffee and then there will be a 15 minute interview with Jude. Please stay behind after the service on the 23rd.

Summer Appeal 2026

Our summer appeal is now closed and the final amount raised was £16,033. We're so thankful for the generosity of God's people and the money raised will go 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).

Act Like Men – Tuesday 25th August



Join us at Hope Church Bingham for an evening men's conference to encourage each other to live for King Jesus in Edinburgh and beyond. This year our Act Like Men evening conferences will focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our next one is on **Tuesday 25th August** from 7:00-8:30pm at Hope Church Bingham. Ben Castaneda will help us understand the hope of The Resurrection of Christ.

For more details and to sign up go [here](http://www.hopebingham.co.uk).



Home Groups and Wednesday meals

In September our Home Groups will recommence for the new term. We will follow our usual rhythm:

- Prayer Meetings on 1st, 3rd and 5th (if there is one) Wednesdays of the month from 7-8pm
- Home Groups meeting around the city on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month

Please contact Liz@holyroodchurch.org if you're not in a Home Group and would like to be. Home Group leaders will be in touch about the arrangements for each group.

We're planning to have a meal together on the first Wednesday of each month. Come to the church from 5.45pm, food will be served at 6pm and we'll meet to pray from 7-8pm. Meals this term will be on:

- 2 September
- 7 October
- 4 November
- 2 December

Annual General Meeting

Please save the date! The church AGM will take place on **Wednesday 26th August** at 7pm in the building. It would be great if as many as possible could be there.

Enlisted and Deployed, Cross Training Ministries Event – Saturday 12th September

Enlisted and Deployed – from disciple to disciple-maker.

Join us for a training event for men in Edinburgh who are ready to step up. **Saturday 12th September** from 9.30am – 1pm at Holyrood. Speak to Joe for more details.



Church Calendar

This week for your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting from 7-8pm in the church
- Sunday:
 - Morning Service at 10.30am – Jon Gemmell preaching (and livestreamed)
 - Evening Service at 6pm – Jon Gemmell preaching.
- Monday: Baby and Toddlers from 10 – 11.30am

