



CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS : www.holycrossedinburgh.org

Congregational e-news for the Sixth Sunday of Easter 10 May 2020

From the Rector, the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes

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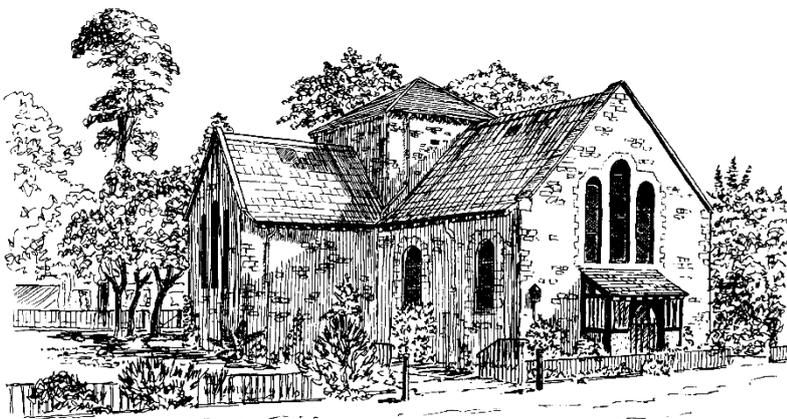
FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends at Holy Cross,

I'm sorry to say that a long-standing member of our congregation and friend to many of you, Helen Allan, died last Thursday at Strachan House. Despite the restrictions it was good that her daughter Jane was able to be with her at the end. She and her family, especially Jane, Jim and Gordon are in our prayers. As is necessary at this time there will be a small funeral but the family hope to have a bigger Memorial Service at Holy Cross later on. Peter Shaw, who was a member of Holy Cross (and our walking group) together with his family before moving away to Cumbria, also died recently and we pray for him and for his wife Jill and family. His funeral is on 14 May in York.

Like many of you, Izzy and I had a fortnight's holiday planned at this time which we have had to postpone until next year. I will, however, take next week off, 11 – 18 May, hence this e-news has readings and prayers for two weeks. Jean Williams will lead the Zoom Evening Prayer next Thursday and there will be no e-news or Eucharist video next weekend. We will be in Gentle Barnton rather than the Wilds of Ardnamurchan so although I will not be checking my phone or email, I can be reached by text or message if there is a serious emergency.

This Sunday is Rogation Sunday when we would usually be blessing the Church grounds. Rogation Days, from the Latin 'rogare' – 'to ask', go back to the Early Church and are



traditionally the 25 April and the three days before Ascension Thursday. It is often transferred to a Sunday. Originally they were marked by processions and litanies asking for God's mercy. To this the custom of blessing newly sown crops and fields was added, and also the custom of 'beating the bounds' when the parishioners would walk round the boundaries of their parish. It

is said that choirboys were beaten during this so that they would remember where the boundary stones are, and it is also said that the rogation days come from an ancient Roman festival where a dog was sacrificed. Whatever the truth of this boys are not flogged nor dogs sacrificed today, but it is good for the church congregation to get out and about and pray for God's blessing on the earth – may we do this together next year!

It is good to see the gardens in good shape and well looked after, as a newcomer it is clear to me that they are one of the glories of Holy Cross. I will say a prayer for God's blessing on our grounds and the earth on Sunday when I am at Holy Cross for the Eucharist. Last week I was also at the Church on Friday to ring the bell at the end of the two minutes silence for VE Day. It is good to remember the sacrifices of the past just as today we show our gratitude for the work of the NHS and key workers in the current crisis.

Keep safe, keep praying and, as Jesus said, do not be afraid!

With love in Christ,



Pastoral Team

If anyone needs help while self-isolating or shielding, please contact me or one of our pastoral team:

- Alan Kirkpatrick (07891 237940 or muttley.l@blueyonder.co.uk)
- Helen Smith (07917 695491 or Helgillard@yahoo.com)
- Angela Gardner (07703 443291 or angela.gardner@ajenterprises.co.uk)

Information about local groups that you can help during this crisis can be found here:

Volunteer Edinburgh: <https://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/volunteer/covid-19/>

EVOC: <https://www.evoc.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

WORSHIP

Eucharist will be celebrated for your intentions on Sundays at Holy Cross and Wednesdays at the Church or Rectory at 10.30am. Please join me in spirit then. Whenever I celebrate in the Church I'll ring the bell.

A video of this Sunday's Eucharist will appear on our Facebook page at 10.00am and will be available on the Holy Cross YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBIGcZmVqp_sfgYon3WU28w/videos

On Thursdays at 5pm a group from Holy Cross meets online on Zoom to say Evening Prayer. All the words are provided. To join us, email Jean Williams, jeanwilliams1@talktalk.net (for next Thursday) or me, rector.hce@gmail.com and we will send you an invitation which will enable you to join in on your computer (it needs to have a camera). It is easy to join us!

The Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) Sunday Eucharist is broadcast each week on Sunday at 11am and may be viewed online on Facebook, YouTube & the SEC website here:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

This Sunday it is led by Bishop John of Edinburgh, who will also celebrate the Eucharist for Ascension Day on the morning of Thursday 21 May. On Thursday 14 May at 6.30pm, a new weekly provincial broadcast service will be launched. The Rev Roxanne Campbell, Assistant

Curate at St Ninian's Church, Dundee, will lead a Service of the Word from her home, joined by people from across the Province.

A note from our Treasurer – Bishop’s Lent Appeal

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/2020/01/bishops-lent-appeal-2020/>

Information about this year’s Bishop’s Lent Appeal was a bit vague about where donations could be given. If you wish to donate to it, could you please send your donations to Holy Cross either direct to the bank account or through Virgin Money Giving or by cheque payable to Holy Cross Church sent to me.

With thanks, Colin.

p.s. thanks again to all who have made generous contributions to our heating fund.

A PRAYER FOR THIS TIME OF CRISIS - *Issued by the leaders of the Churches in Scotland*

Lord, we are those who journey
And who find that journey hard today.
We are those who journey
And long to find our hope renewed.
 Lord in your mercy,
 Hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for scientists and researchers;
For those seeking to understand the
challenge we face;
For those creating potential vaccines;
For those advising decision-makers.
 Lord in your mercy,
 Hear our prayer.

Lord, whether in our own company or with
companions beside us,
We journey on.
Whether sure, or unsure, as to our
journey’s end,
Come beside us through the risen Lord.
 Lord in your mercy,
 Hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for those who shape our
common life:
In local Councils and in Scottish
Government
And in the Government of the United
Kingdom.
Grant to them wisdom, compassion and
understanding.
 Lord in your mercy,
 Hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for others;
For carers of the living and of the dying;
For the bereaved and for the anxious;
For those fearing loss of work and of
business.
 Lord in your mercy,
 Hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for your Kingdom to come
And for your will to be done,
On earth
As it is in heaven.
 Lord in your mercy,
 Hear our prayer.

HYMN OF THE WEEK : Columba's Hymn on a Journey

Alone with none but thee, my God,
I journey on my way;
what need I fear when thou art near,
O King of night and day?
more safe am I within thy hand
than if a host did round me stand.

My destined time is fixed by thee,
and death doth know his hour.
Did warriors strong around me throng,
they could not stay his power;
No walls of stone can man defend
when thou thy messenger dost send.

My life I yield to thy decree,
and bow to thy control
in peaceful calm, for from thine arm
no power can wrest my soul:
could earthly omens e'er appal
a man that heeds the heavenly call?

The child of God can fear no ill,
his chosen dread no foe;
we leave our fate with thee, and wait
thy bidding when to go:
'tis not from chance our comfort springs,
thou art our trust, O King of kings.



Columba in the East Window at Holy Cross

Columba of Iona is important to Scotland and to us at Holy Cross. He is in our East Window, we have an icon of him and St Patrick by the pulpit, and the land on which our Church was built belonged to the medieval parish of Cramond, dedicated to Our Lady (Mary) and Columba. Scholars now believe that Cramond and the Roman road that passes Holy Cross was an important staging post on the route between Iona and Lindisfarne.

Just over a hundred years ago there was a renewal of interest in the old Celtic saints and prayers and hymns by and about them started to be used more frequently in our worship, for example Eleanor Hull's 'Be thou my vision'. The Scottish Bishops in 1950 authorised a new Hymnal for Scotland which was the best of the new hymn books, The English Hymnal, with a Scottish supplement. Among hymns by and about Scottish saints and new compositions, many by women, like 'Be thou my vision' and 'Child in the manger' it included this hymn.

'Alone with none but thee my God' is attributed to St Columba but I have not been able to find its origin, even though I asked the great scholar of hymns, Ian Bradley. I first sung it on Iona in 1983 to an old Irish tune from the Petrie collection (used in this week's worship video), and Izzy and I had it at our wedding. It speaks of confidence that God is in charge, we will die but how and when is in God's hands and we should not be afraid. It is a good hymn to sing and read in these times of pestilence and danger.

PRAYER & READINGS

These are offered so we can stay together in our prayers even if we can't meet together. It is good that so many of us are using it. The collects and readings are those that are used in Church at the Eucharist & Daily Prayer.

Choose which ones you want to use and don't feel any obligation to do everything! If we do use even some of them we know we are part of a big community, all meditating on the same bits of the Bible each day and all praying in the same way. This can be a consolation when we are isolated.

All the readings for the whole year can be downloaded by clicking on this link:

<https://www.osp.org.uk/worship/calendar-lectionary/>

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 10 May

- *Collect:* Almighty God, through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ you have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Christ our Lord, Amen.
- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Acts 7.55-60 ; 1 Peter 2.2-10 ; John 14.1-14
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Jennie C; Nancy M); those who have died recently (Helen Allan, Peter Shaw, Liam) and their families; Deacon Elias and the Syrian Orthodox congregation at Holy Cross; for all living and working in care homes. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Bishop John; Holy Trinity, Haddington and the Revd Liz O' Ryan.

Monday 11 May

- *Daily Readings:* Leviticus 8.1-13,30-36 ; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 ; Matthew 6.1-6,16-18
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Alan MacKay; Graeme H), families with children at home and our local schools. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Barnabas', Moredun and the Revd David Dixon.

Tuesday 12 May – Thomas Rattray, Bishop (1743)

Thomas Rattray of Craighall was Bishop of Brechin and Dunkeld and Primus from 1738 to 1743. He was a great liturgical scholar and published 'The Ancient Liturgy of the Church of Jerusalem'.

- *Daily Readings:* Leviticus 16.1-19 ; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 ; Matthew 6.7-15
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Andy; Eric T) and our plans for new heating at Holy Cross; those worried about their jobs, businesses & financial situation. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Bishop John on the anniversary of his consecration; St Columba's by the Castle and the Revd David Paton-Williams.

Wednesday 13 May

- *Daily Readings:* Leviticus 16.20-34 ; 1 Thessalonians 5.12-28 ; Matthew 6.19-24
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Beth McG – thanksgiving for recovery; Mike H), those working from home, Fr Peter & St Margaret's RC Church., *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Mary's, Dalkeith and St Leonard's, Lasswade, the Revd Peter Harris.

Thursday 14 May – St Matthias the Apostle

- *Eucharist Readings:* Isaiah 22.15-25 ; Acts 1.15-26 ; John 15.1,6-16
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Lucy; Graeme), the NHS, medical staff, emergency services and all key workers; Peter Shaw RIP, funeral today. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Baldred's, North Berwick, the Revv Simon Metzner and Mark and Harriet Harris.

Friday 15 May

- *Daily Readings:* Leviticus 19.26-37 ; 2 Thessalonians 2.1-17 ; Matthew 7.1-12
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Margaret M; Andrew), and those who live around us especially those shielding and self-isolating; for all in Julian Groups and the brothers and sisters of the Order of Julian of Norwich in the USA. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Peter's, Lutton Place and their new Rector, Revd Nick Wills who was instituted over Zoom on 26 April (it may have been cold for our institution on 18 February but at least we were in the Church!)

Saturday 16 May

- *Daily Readings:* Leviticus 23.22-44 ; 2 Thessalonians 3.1-18 ; Matthew 7.13-21
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Molly; Isobel W-I); those suffering from Covid-19 and their families around the world; Rev Dan and Davidson's Mains Parish Church; persecuted Christians. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Peter's, Musselburgh, the Revd Andy Reid; Loreto School.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Rogation Sunday – 17 May

- *Collect:* Almighty God, you have given us your only Son to be both a sacrifice for sin and an example of Godly life: give us grace most thankfully to receive the benefits of his death and Resurrection, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Christ our Lord, Amen.
- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Acts 17.22-31 ; 1 Peter 3.13-22 ; John 14.15-21
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Jennie C; Nancy M); those who have died recently (Helen Allan, Peter Shaw, Liam) and their families; the earth, nature and all farmers; Deacon Elias and the Syrian Orthodox congregation at Holy Cross; for all living and working in care homes. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Bishop John; St John's, Princes Street, Revv. Markus Dünzkofer and Rosie Addis.

Monday 18 May – Rogation Day

- *Daily Readings:* Leviticus 25.1-17 ; Colossians 1.9-14 ; Matthew 13.1-16
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Alan MacKay; Graeme H), families with children at home and our local schools. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Peter's, Galashiels, St Cuthbert's, Hawick, St John's, Selkirk (the A7 centre of mission), the Revd Simon Cake. Whitchester Retreat House. The Church Army.

Tuesday 19 May – Rogation Day

- *Daily Readings:* Leviticus 25.35-55 ; 1 Timothy 2.1-6 ; Matthew 13.18-23
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Andy; Eric T) and our plans for new heating at Holy Cross; those worried about their jobs, businesses & financial situation. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Michael and All Saints, Fr Martin Robson; Fr John Penman.

Wednesday 20 May – Rogation Day

- *Daily Readings:* Leviticus 26.1-20(27-42) ; Ephesians 1.1-10 ; Matthew 22.41-46
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (David; Mike H), those working from home, Fr Peter & St Margaret's RC Church. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Cuthbert's, Colinton: Revd Nicki McNelly.

Thursday 21 May – ASCENSION OF THE LORD

- *Collect:* Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell, through Christ our Lord, Amen.
- *Eucharist Readings:* Acts 1.1-11 ; Ephesians 1.15-23 ; Luke 24.44-53
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Lucy; Graeme), the NHS, medical staff, emergency services and all key workers. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St James', Penicuik, St Mungo's, West Linton and Revd Nick Bowry.

Friday 22 May

- *Daily Readings:* 1 Samuel 2.1-10 ; Ephesians 2.1-10 ; Matthew 7.22-27
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Margaret M; Andrew), and those who live around us especially those shielding and self-isolating; for all in Julian Groups and the brothers and sisters of the Order of Julian of Norwich in the USA. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Collegiate Church of St Matthew, Roslin, (Rosslyn Chapel), Fr Joe Roulston

Saturday 23 May – St William of Perth

William was a baker from Perth who set off on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the year 1200 but was murdered by his travelling companion, perhaps his adopted son, when they reached Rochester. His body was garlanded with flowers by a mentally ill woman who was soon after cured. The monks of Rochester Cathedral buried his body in their church and it became a major place of pilgrimage. He was canonised in 1256 and is the patron of adopted children.

- *Daily Readings:* Numbers 11.16-17,24-29 ; Ephesians 2.11-22 ; Matthew 7.28-8.4
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Molly; Isobel W-I); those suffering from Covid-19 and their families around the world; Rev Dan and Davidson's Mains Parish Church; persecuted Christians. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Bishop John and the College of Bishops. Emmaus House.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Sunday after Ascension – 24 May

- *Collect:* O God the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.
- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Acts 1.6-14 ; 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11 ; John 17.1-11
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Jennie C; Nancy M); those who have died recently (Helen Allan, Peter Shaw, Liam) and their families; the earth, nature and all farmers; Deacon Elias and the Syrian Orthodox congregation at Holy Cross; for all living and working in care homes. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Bishop John; Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains and the Revd Stephen Holmes (US!).

AFTERWORD : Leo the Great on Ascension Day

Our faith is based on Easter, as Paul said 'if Christ is not raised from the dead our faith is in vain', and it is strengthened by the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost – but what does Ascension Day mean?

Ascension Day is important, at school we had a half day off and there are two services each year at Holy Cross. Leo the Great was one of the great heroes of the faith who when Bishop of Rome faced down Attila the Hun in 452 AD. He was also one of the greatest of Christian teachers who left us a series of letters and sermons which still help us understand Christianity today, including the Mystery of the Ascension.

In this sermon Leo tells us that the Ascension means that our humanity is taken up to heaven in Christ. This gives us hope because after our death our destiny is to join him. Here below we are called to go beyond doubting Thomas and believe in what we cannot see. At the heart of our faith is a real absence, Jesus is not with us as he was with the disciples in Galilee.

But to give us hope Jesus has left his real presence with us in the Eucharist and the other Sacraments. In Leo's famous words: "what was visible in our Redeemer has passed into the Sacraments". This gives us hope, even as today we walk in a new absence even of the Sacraments from our lives, because as baptised people we carry the life of Christ within us.

And so while at Easter it was the Lord's resurrection which was the cause of our joy, our present rejoicing is on account of his ascension into heaven. With all due solemnity we are commemorating that day on which our poor human nature was carried up in Christ above all the hosts of heaven, above all the ranks of angels, beyond the highest heavenly powers to the very throne of God the Father.

The grace of God shows itself even more marvellous when, although Jesus is withdraw from our sight, faith does not fail, hope is not shaken, charity does not grow cold.

Such is the power of truly believing souls, that they put unhesitating faith in what is not seen with the bodily eye; they fix their desires on what is beyond sight. This is why Christ said to Thomas, that man who seemed doubtful about his resurrection unless he could see and touch the marks of his passion in his very flesh: 'You believe because you see me; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'.

It was in order that we might be capable of such blessedness that on the fortieth day after his resurrection, after he had made careful provision for everything concerning the preaching of the Gospel and the mysteries of the new covenant, our Lord Jesus Christ was taken up to heaven before the eyes of his disciples. Thus his bodily presence among them came to an end.

From that time onward he was to remain at the Father's right hand until the completion of the time ordained by God for the Church to increase and multiply, after which, in the same body with which he ascended, he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

And so what was visible in our Redeemer has passed into the sacraments. Our faith is nobler and stronger because sight has been replaced by a faith and teaching whose authority is accepted by believing hearts, enlightened from on high.