



CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS : www.holycrossedinburgh.org

Congregational e-news for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

6 September 2020.

From the Rector, the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes

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All are welcome here

Holy Cross is a Christian church. Everyone is welcome here, whether you are a person of faith or not. We hope that any contact you have with us will be a positive experience.

All are invited to become a member of the Church, the Body of Christ, through Baptism. All the baptised are welcome to receive Holy Communion, the pledge of God's love and sign of our union in the Body of Christ.

Holy Cross is an inclusive church: there is no discrimination on the basis of gender, disability, race, age, sexual orientation or social class.

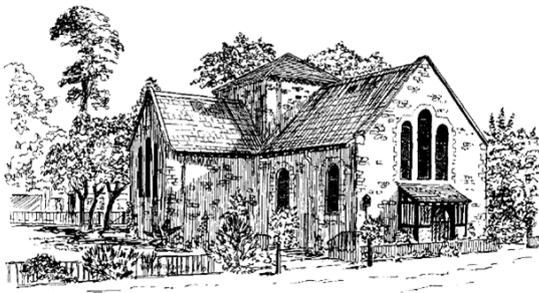
'You are all one in Christ'

Galatians 3:28

I. KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER

Dear friends at Holy Cross,

Over the six weeks we have been together on a Sunday since the easing of lockdown, we have had a number of people worshipping at Holy Cross for the first time and this is great. Those of us who are 'regulars' can find it hard to understand how difficult it is to enter a new Church. It can also be difficult to comprehend how weird and alien Christianity appears to those who exist happily in modern secularised Scotland. The Archbishop of Canterbury recently noted that he has noticed a change in attitude to Christianity among people of his children's generation – the faith is no longer an irrelevant survival but is seen as malign: associated with abuse, misogyny, homophobia and hostility to science.



It is important to take down all unnecessary barriers, while not emptying the faith of its content and radical challenge. To help this the Vestry recently approved the statement above which simply affirms that all are welcome and that all the baptised are welcome to receive Holy Communion. In the discussion at Vestry it was noted that while it is important to make statements like this, real welcome is how a visitor is received by the

community and this is the task of all of us. Communion can be an awkward time for a visitor. Some people still think you need to be confirmed or be an Anglican/Episcopalian to receive Communion but that is not the case, as better relationships between denominations means that we recognise each other's baptisms and see Baptism as full Christian initiation.

Some may think that saying that Holy Communion is only for the baptised is itself unwelcoming, and, in reality, a priest would not turn anyone away from Communion unless they were clearly intent on sacrilege. On the other hand honesty is required. Holy Communion is not a bit of 'welcome bread', the words used when it is consecrated and given is 'the Body of Christ' ('Blood of Christ'). There are many ways of understanding what this means but whatever one believes about the Eucharist, to receive Holy Communion is to affirm that you are a Christian, a member of the Body of Christ. The great saint Augustine said of receiving Holy Communion, when the priest says 'the Body of Christ': "O Christian, receive what you are and become what you receive". To give Holy Communion to a non-Christian is, objectively, to involve them and you in a lie, although one always presumes good faith.

Holy Communion puts us into contact with the whole mystery of Jesus Christ and at the heart of this mystery is the Cross. Next weekend we will be celebrating our patronal feast, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Although we are still under coronavirus restrictions, we will be celebrating a **Vigil at 7.30pm on Saturday evening** and the usual **10.30am Eucharist on the Sunday**. More details are in the magazine but all are invited to both services.

The Vigil will consist of said Evening Prayer at 7.30pm ; an hour of silent prayer, including three short 'stations' with a reading and prayers (including prayer for each member of the congregation by name), concluding with Benediction at 8.45pm ; and the Vigil will close with Sung Compline at 9pm (sung by a cantor as we can't yet sing together). Please come to as much or as little of this as you wish. The Vigil on the evening of Saturday 12 September, as explained in the September magazine, will consist of:

- 7.30pm First Vespers of the Holy Cross (Evening Prayer, said)
- 7.50pm Silent prayer with three 'stations' of readings and prayers
- 8.45pm Benediction
- 9.00pm Sung Compline

I have been writing to thank those who make donations to our heating fund but don't have an address for a recent donor, the Sanderson Family. I would like to record our thanks here.

Let us pray for one another and I look forward to seeing some of you at our services,

With love in Christ,



NOTICES

Flowers – there are still quite a few spaces on the flower rota for this year. If you would like to do the flowers in church one week please contact Sarah, sarahmillee@aol.com 237 5147, or Janette, janettemiller17@hotmail.com 336 3417.

Edinburgh Street Pastors are recruiting new volunteers. Training will take place on the weekends of 18th to 20th October and 15th to 17th November and will be run on the Friday evening, Saturday part day and Sunday afternoon of both weekends. If you are interested please email edinburghsp.training@gmail.com or call 07523 267 906. For background information see www.streetpastors.org.

Donations to Holy Cross or to the heating fund may be paid in to the Church's bank account: Royal Bank of Scotland, sort code 83-18-47; account number 00170278; account name: Church of the Holy Cross, or a cheque in this name can be sent to me at Holy Cross Rectory, 18 Barnton Gardens, EH4 6AF.

2. KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH GOD : OUR WORSHIP

The Eucharist will be celebrated in public each Sunday at Holy Cross at 10.30am.

Eucharist will be continue to be celebrated privately for your intentions on Wednesdays in the Rectory (as the contractors are in the Church). The Wednesday Eucharist in the Church will be resumed, if the public health situation allows, when the new heating system is installed, probably in October.

A Holy Cross worship video will usually appear on our Facebook page at 10.00am. We intend to continue to produce these videos for the time being for those who can't come during phase three but we will review this and reduce the number of videos later. The videos are all available on the Holy Cross YouTube channel:

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

On Thursdays at 5pm a group from Holy Cross meet online on Zoom to say Evening Prayer. All the words are provided. I will send out an invitation each week to those who regularly take part and if you wish to join us, email me and I will send you the invitation and password 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 still broadcast each week on Sunday at 11am and these will also continue for the time being. These may be viewed online on Facebook, YouTube & the SEC website here: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

3. PRAYER & READINGS for the next week

These are offered so we can stay together in our prayers, 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/>

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – 6 September

- *Collect:* Almighty God, you called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through Christ our Lord, Amen.
- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Ezekiel 33.7-11 ; Romans 13.8-14 ; Matthew 18.15-20.
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Jennie C; Nancy M; Ian and Ann H S); those who have died recently (Sean; Pat Keen) and their families, especially Sean's wife Gillian; our Government in Westminster and Holyrood; Deacon Elias and the Syrian Orthodox congregation at Holy Cross; for all living and working in care homes. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Christ Church, Falkirk: Revv Sarah & Willie Shaw.

Monday 7 September

- *Daily Readings:* Job 32.1-10,19-33.1,19-28 ; Acts 13.44-52 ; Jn 10.19-30
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Graeme H; Robert M); our local schools, all children and teachers; all expectant mothers and new-born babies; babies Emilia and Bess who will be baptised at Holy Cross later this year, and their families. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* The diocesan office and all who work there.

Tuesday 8 September – The Birth of Mary, Mother of God

The Nativity of Mary has been celebrated on this day since at least the sixth century where it was associated with a Church in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate. In the Eastern Church it stands at the beginning of the Christian

Year which starts in September. It soon spread to the West and became popular because of Mary's role in the life of Christ. Most feasts are of the death or 'heavenly birthday' of the saint, Mary shares with Jesus and John the Baptist having also a feast of her human birth as her giving birth to the Son of God sanctified human procreation.

- *Eucharist Readings:* Micah 5.2-4 ; Romans 8.28-30 ; Matthew 1.18-23
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Andy; Eric T; Connie), the installation of our new heating system at Holy Cross and all who have donated towards it; those worried about their jobs, businesses & their financial situation; good use of our Church garden and all who work in it. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Salvador's, Stenhouse, Fr Andrew Bain, Fr Mariusz Wojciechowski, ordinand Dr Ross Jesmont.

Wednesday 9 September

- *Daily Readings:* Job 29.1; 30.1-2,16-31 ; Acts 14.19-28 ; John 11.1-16
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Mike Holmes; Eleanor Thomson; Roy Snyman, priest), those working from home, Fr Peter & St Margaret's RC Church; the Reindeer play group, After School Club and all our hall users. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Mary and All Souls, Coldstream; St Ebba's, Eyemouth, Christ Church, Duns, Revd Chris Jones - Linked Charge of Berwickshire churches.

Thursday 10 September

- *Daily Readings:* Job 29.1; 31.1-23 ; Acts 15.1-11 ; John 11.17-29
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Lucy; Jean Duncan); the earth and the environmental crisis; the NHS, medical staff, emergency services and all key workers; those awaiting the results of tests. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield: Revd Dean Fostekew and William Mounsey.

Friday 11 September

- *Daily Readings:* Job 29.1;31.24-40 ; Acts 15.12-21 ; John 11.30-44
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Margaret M; Andrew; Minmin Yu) and those who live around us especially those who are finding life difficult; the people of Belarus. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Barnabas', Moredun: Revd David Dixon.

Saturday 12 September – Vigil of Holy Cross

- *Daily Readings:* Job 38.1-17 ; Acts 15.22-35 ; John 11.45-54
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Molly; Isobel W-I); those suffering from Covid-19 and their families around the world; Rev Dan Robertson and Davidson's Mains Parish Church; persecuted Christians. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Columba's by the Castle: Revd David Paton-Williams

Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Patronal Feast) – 13 September



- *Collect:* Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Numbers 21.4b-9 ; Philippians 2.6-11 ; John 3.13-17.

- *Prayer intentions:* Holy Cross Church and our Church community (Jennie C; Nancy M; Ian and Ann H S); those who have died recently (Sean; Pat Keen) and their families, especially Sean's wife Gillian; our Government in Westminster and Holyrood; Deacon Elias and the Syrian Orthodox congregation at Holy Cross; for all living and working in care homes. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Mary's, Dalkeith and St Leonard's, Lasswade: Revd Peter Harris.