



CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS : www.holycrossedinburgh.org

Congregational e-news for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

30 August 2020.

From the Rector, the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes

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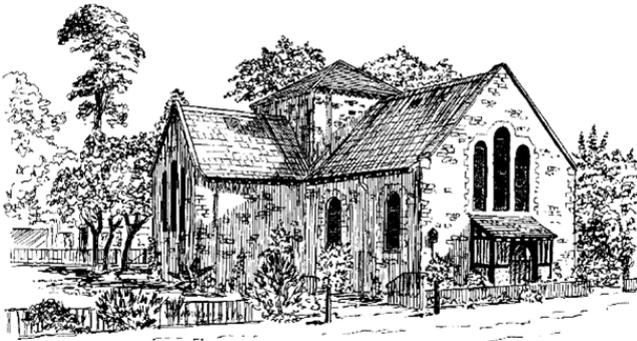
I. KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER

Dear friends at Holy Cross,

I have wondered why those who founded our Church gave it the title ‘Holy Cross’. It certainly seems to go back to the early days of the mission here in Davidson’s Mains and Barnton. The picture of an angel holding a black cross in our East Window suggests that it is a connection with the Abbey of Holyrood (Holy Cross) and the favourite relic of the Kings and Queens of Scots, the Black Rod of Scotland. It also fits the cruciform shape of the Church and the centrality of the cross to Christianity.

This year we are still operating under Covid restrictions but we will still keep our Patronal Feast (if without the feasting bit). I invite you to come to part of the Vigil service the Saturday night before – details below. To fit our risk-management plan we will have different seats available in the church and face coverings will still be required, but it will be an opportunity to come to Holy Cross and pray quietly with others for our families, friends and congregation and for our future as a Christian community.

We will need a welcomer for each half-hour of the Vigil – 4 in all – please let me know if you can do one of these slots. Otherwise come and go as you wish.



Those of you who were at Church last Sunday will have seen the new radiators in position, the contractors tell me that the job is going well and is on time. Thanks to those who have made new donations to our heating fund – we hope to hear from our current remaining grant application soon and Colin will then be able to update us on the financial situation. We will, however, be warm in Church this autumn!

Let us pray for one another and I look forward to seeing some of you on Sunday,

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 Janette: janettemiller17@hotmail.com

Holy Cross Day, our patronal feast, will be celebrated on Sunday 13th September. There will be a Vigil at 7.30pm on Saturday evening and the usual 10.30am Eucharist on the Sunday. 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). so, on the evening of Saturday 12 September:

- 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

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 at 10.30am 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 before the beginning of 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 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/>

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – 30 August

- *Collect:* Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.
- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Jeremiah 15.15-21 ; Romans 12.9-21 ; Matthew 16.21-28.
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Jennie C; Nancy M); those who have died recently (Pat Keen, who died in March) and their families; 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:* Bishop John and Clare; retired clergy, including Bishop Bob Halliday and Canon Douglas and Arabella Kornahrens.

Monday 31 August – St Aidan of Lindisfarne, Bishop

When King Oswald wanted to convert his people in Northumbria he asked for a monk from Iona. The first was too strict and had to return but Aidan was then sent and brought many to Christ through his gentle life and teaching. Oswald gave him the Island of Lindisfarne for his base and he died nearby at Bamburgh.

- *Daily Readings:* Job 12.1-6,13-25 ; Acts 11.19-30 ; John 8.21-30
- *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:* Chaplains to schools and universities.

Tuesday 1 September – Giles, Abbot, c.710

Giles was a hermit in Provence who was supposed to have saved a hind from a huntsman. His cult was spread by crusaders and pilgrims and he eventually became patron saint of Edinburgh and Elgin..

- *Daily Readings:* Job 12:1, 13:3-17,21-27 ; Acts 12:1-17 ; John 8:31-47
- *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; all churches open for public worship or preparing to open. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Mary's Cathedral, V Revd John Conway; Revv Marion Chatterley; Andy Philip; Paul Foster.

Wednesday 2 September – Martyrs of New Guinea

When the Japanese invaded New Guinea the Bishop instructed the Anglican missionaries to stay put and eight clergy, teachers and medical missionaries were killed by the Japanese in 1942 together with two local Christians who helped them. After the war the missions began to flourish, the Church of the Province of New Guinea was established in 1977 and now most inhabitants of New Guinea are Christian.

- *Daily Readings:* Job 12.1;14.1-22 ; Acts 12.18-25 ; John 8.47-59
- *Prayer intentions:* The Church in New Guinea; 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 Mungo's, Balerno, Fr Malcolm Round; Fr Ollie Clegg.

Thursday 3 September – Gregory the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, 604

The son of a Roman Senator, he became a monk and was elected Bishop of Rome. He reformed the liturgy and church music ('Gregorian chant'), governed parts of Italy when Imperial authority weakened, sent missionaries to convert the English, and published popular works on Christian teaching including a guide for pastors and a commentary on Job.

- *Daily Readings:* Job 16.16-22; 17.1,13-16 ; Acts 13.1-12 ; John 9.1-17

- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Lucy; Jean Duncan), the NHS, medical staff, emergency services and all key workers; those awaiting the results of tests; Pope Francis. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Mustard Seed, Easter Road, Edinburgh: Revd Richard Cornfield, pioneer priest.

Friday 4 September

- *Daily Readings:* Job 19.1-7,14-27 ; Acts 13.13-25 ; John 9.18-41
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Margaret M; Andrew) and those who live around us especially those who are finding life difficult; the people of Belarus. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Paul's and St George's, York Place, Revv David Richards; Libby Talbot; Paul Sawrey.

Saturday 5 September

- *Daily Readings:* Job 22.1-4,21-23.7 ; Acts 13.26-43 ; John 10.1-18
- *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 Martin of Tours, Tynecastle, in vacancy - Revv Sarah Kilbey, Stuart Robertson and Ken Webb.

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); those who have died recently (Pat Keen) and their families; 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.

3. Afterword – St Aidan of Lindisfarne

This week we remember Aidan who came from Iona to bring the gospel to the Northumbrians – after crossing the Forth he may well have walked down the Roman road past Holy Cross. Here is his story as told by St Bede, with the moral, 'watch what you say in a meeting'.

It is said that when King Oswald originally asked the Scots to send a bishop to teach the Faith of Christ to himself and his people, they sent him another man of a more austere disposition. After some time, meeting with no success in his preaching to the English, who refused to listen to him, he returned home and reported to his superiors that he had been unable to achieve anything to the nation to whom they had sent him because they were an ungovernable people of an obstinate and barbarous temperament.

The Fathers on Iona therefore held a great conference to decide on the wisest course of action; for while they regretted that the preacher whom they had sent had not been acceptable to the English, they still wished to meet their desire for salvation. Then Aidan, who was present at the conference, said to the priest whose efforts had been unsuccessful: 'Brother, it seems to me that you were too severe on your ignorant hearers. You should have followed the practice of the Apostles, and begun by giving them the milk of simpler teaching, and gradually nourished them with the word of God until they were capable of greater perfection and able to follow the loftier precepts of Christ.'

At this the faces and eyes of all who were at the conference were turned towards him; and they paid close attention to all he said, and realised that here was a fit person to be made bishop and sent to instruct the ignorant and unbelieving, since he was particularly endowed with the gift of discretion, the mother of virtues. They therefore consecrated him bishop and sent him to preach. Time was to show that Aidan was remarkable not only for discretion, but for other virtues as well.