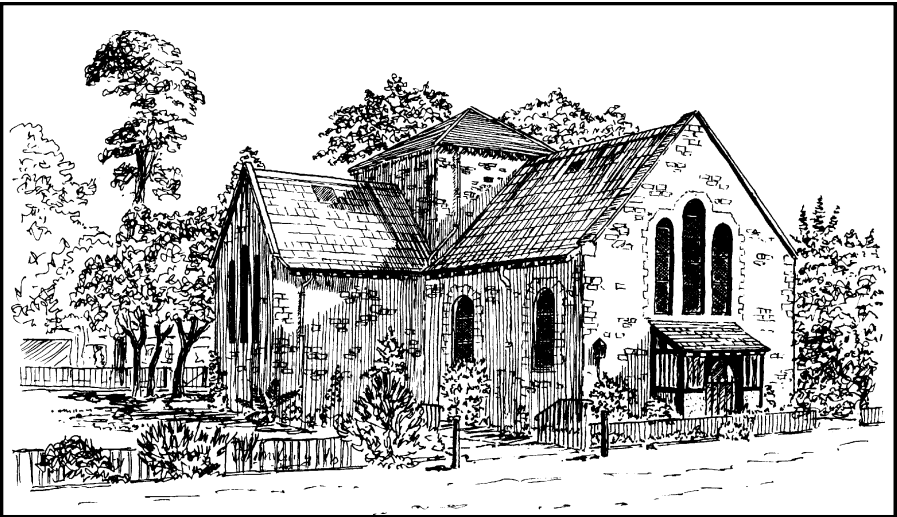


Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

OCTOBER 2020



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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Treasurer	Mr Colin Mair
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All material should reach the Editor by then.

Magazine Editor Mrs Margaret Deas

Website: www.holycrossedinburgh.org
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YouTube: [Holy Cross Church Edinburgh](https://www.youtube.com/HolyCrossChurchEdinburgh)

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FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

Even with the restrictions in place there are a lot of things happening at Holy Cross in the next few weeks. The first Sunday in October is our Harvest Festival (details are on page 5). Baptism is the sacrament that makes us Christians, part of the Church which is the Body of Christ. We are blessed to be having two baptisms at Holy Cross in October – Bess, my daughter, on Sunday 18th October and Emilia, the daughter of Zoe Kirkpatrick, on Sunday 25th October. We will use the modern Scottish Episcopalian Rite of Baptism in our normal Sunday Eucharist. It reminds us of our own Baptism and in the Rite there is the opportunity to welcome new members to our church. Both Emilia and Bess are regular worshippers with us and feel at home in our church.

Looked at from Heaven this world must seem a place where new souls are constantly being born, and often re-born in Baptism, and then passing from this world in death which is a re-birth into a new life. I was at St Mary's Cathedral recently for the delayed Chrism Mass (a Eucharist, usually celebrated on Maundy Thursday, where the Bishop consecrates the Holy oils for the new year and all the clergy renew their ordination vows), and among the departed prayed for was our own Helen Allan. Recently we also buried the ashes of Elgar Dickinson and his sister Anne in our garden of remembrance. More recently we received the sad news of the death of Chantal Tuke, a member of Holy Cross who moved to England not that long ago. We hope to have memorial services for Chantal and Helen at Holy Cross when restrictions are lifted. They, and their families, all remain in our thoughts and prayers and we will remember all the departed members of our congregation and our relatives, friends and benefactors on All Souls Day. Details of the All Souls Requiem Eucharist are on page 6.

Thanks to all who helped make our Patronal Feast last month, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, such a success despite the coronavirus restrictions. There was a remarkable depth of silence at the Vigil as we prayed together in the candlelit church and many comments on the beauty of our building from those who saw the photographs. Thanks also to all those who keep Holy Cross running, particularly welcomers and cleaners on Sundays, those who have contributed to our new heating system which should be in action by the time you read this, and all of you who just keep an eye out for your neighbours and friends in the congregation. It has been an unusual but very heartening first seven months for Izzy, Bess and me.

November is a month of Remembrance but even in October we occasionally

turn to look towards the expectation and new life of Advent and Christmas. We don't know what restrictions will be in place then and whether we will even be able to sing Christmas Carols – I suspect not. How might we celebrate Christmas if we can't sing and can't have the Christingle service?

Let us pray for each other and all who are working to keep us safe, and let us work to be a community of love and prayer, united around Jesus in Word and Sacrament.

With love in Christ,



P.S. **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.

MAGAZINE – BACK ON PAPER!

Thank you to all the distributors who have ventured out again to deliver magazines to readers' doors. If you would like to join their number please get in touch with the Editor.

All being well, future magazines will continue to be on paper as well as online. If you have received a paper copy which you do not want, let the Editor know. If you know someone not on the current list who would like to receive the magazine, please ask them to contact the Editor.

THANK YOU LIZ!



After many years of service, Liz Henderson has retired as magazine distribution organiser. We are very grateful for all her work in counting out magazines and keeping the list up to date. Liz has beavered away quietly in the background, and deserves more than this virtual bouquet.

DISTRIBUTION ORGANISER NEEDED

Would anyone like to take over from Liz? It is not a very difficult job, but does mean being available every month to count out the bundles of magazines and get them to distributors for delivery. If you can help, please contact the Editor.

HARVEST FESTIVAL – SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER

Our **Harvest Festival** will be on Sunday 4th October which is also the Feast of St Francis and the end of Creationtide so a good time to give God thanks for the bounty of nature. Donations for the **harvest flowers** can be given to Sarah (contact details below) and as usual we will collect **non-perishable gifts for the Food Bank**.

Anne Williams asked them what they need: ‘The **Edinburgh City Mission Food Bank** staff based at Granton Baptist Church are delighted that we at Holy Cross are planning to give them our Harvest gifts once again this year. The list of foodstuffs and toiletries needed is well known to us, and all gifts are enormously appreciated. The following items are particularly popular or needed at present:

Tins, packets and jars: Meat, fish; vegetables: carrots, peas, sweetcorn; custard, jam, tea, coffee, sugar, cereals.



Treats! Biscuits, sweets.

Toiletries: Deodorant, soap.

They are well stocked at present with the following: pasta, baked beans, soup.’

Creationtide is the period from 1st September to 4th October dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life, a time of thanksgiving for the great gift of creation and of prayers for its preservation and healing. It was originally an Eastern Orthodox initiative but has now spread to Anglican, Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. In a time of environmental crisis it is important for the Christian voice to be heard.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

27th September	Janette Miller
4th October	HARVEST
11th October	?
18th October	Jenny Harrison
25th October	Sally Mair



Flower Rota

The Flower Rota on the church noticeboard still has gaps – please sign up. For further information, or if you would like to donate the flowers but not arrange them, please contact Sarah or Janette.

ALL SOULS' REQUIEM
MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER
7.30 p.m.

All Souls is the day when we remember our departed relatives and friends. As is our custom we will have a **Eucharist of Requiem at 7.30 p.m.** in the Church and the departed will be prayed for by name. Weather permitting we will also go outside to pray in the garden of remembrance.

A sheet will be in church in October for names of those to be remembered.

FRANCIS FOR TODAY

In the February 2019 magazine I reviewed *A Retreat with Francis and Clare of Assisi* by Bodo and Saint Sing – a fine sentimentalist's treasure chest. But in trying to make sense of the lectures on 'The Great Courses' website 'Francis of Assisi', and 'Great Christians' series, I have been struggling with the question: what is there to learn for today – a time when the coronavirus has drawn our attention to stark issues. So, I wanted to look at real history – a task not always so sentimentally appealing.

Real history tells us that Francis's legacy was under assault even before he died. For the first 50 years after his death, the Franciscans were riven by division; at one point, they were divided by a pope into two orders. The authenticity of the Franciscan pledge to poverty was questioned and apologists tried hard in the face of such criticism to define poverty in such a way that it could be said that the Franciscan order remained true to the concept of embracing it. And yet of course many people could see something coherent in what Francis was about, and it was rather more than simply pledging a life of poverty – the flowering of Franciscan spirituality can be seen in the works of perhaps the greatest poet of all time – Dante. So, what was Francis really about?

The courses above help me to have an opinion – so, here it is. Francis had seen the need to correct the vices of pride and avarice. And he had correctly seen that the cure involved going deep inside one's mind to understand its mechanisms. The problem of ulterior motives is that we can always make rationalisations which disguise our avarice. Our pride makes our rationalising necessary – but that pride is often linked with feelings such as shame, guilt, humiliation, anger, defensiveness, and a deep desire to have our views and legacy vindicated. With all that going on, we naturally slip into aggression and only a repentant attitude regarding our natural tendencies can lead us to soften a little. Francis saw that humility was the antidote to the sin of pride, and he saw poverty as the antidote to aggressive self-promotion. In his

dramatic gesture of stripping naked in front of his father, he showed he preferred transparency and a renunciation of one's rationalising tendency, along with all the vestments of his father's respectability. But such gestures were okay in hot climates – which is why we need a deeper understanding of how we can use his symbolism for today!

But why did he need to stand out, and do his own thing? Couldn't he have just gone to 'varsity' and read theology? No! For Francis, to define something as basic as love wasn't totally to understand it. Intellectual exercise could take you places but was insufficient for true understanding. Francis preferred the university of life – but he was no hippy! For example, he wanted to experience real love by helping lepers. He could not have admired the Beatles' song, 'Love is all you need' because love requires real compassion, meaning to suffer with others, as you fully share their experience. He later said he found more joy with the lepers he met than in any other episode in his life. For Francis the university of life had its place. Francis's well-known sermon to the birds brings to the forefront the radical simplicity of the man. What did Francis think he was doing here? Should we preach to the birds outside Tesco? The sermon was Francis's way of showing his reverence for all of creation. Reverence, humility and being open to experiencing (not the therapists' shame attacking so loved by modern politicians) were Francis's motivation. God's act of becoming human was, for Francis, the greatest expression of humility and the one all humans should recognise and seek to imitate. And here we get to the bottom of Francis's thinking. An age which wondered how one could imitate the earliest Christian martyrs found in Francis an answer: one could imitate God's humility. And from Francis through Dante we come to our modern church architecture; its lofty spires encouraging us to spiral our thoughts heavenward. I must conclude that we need to pray for our church repairs – as we orientate towards applying Francis's thinking to today's problems.

Andrew Vass

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing alleluia! alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them his glory also show.

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness; O praise him, alleluia!

W.H. Draper. Based on St Francis of Assisi's 'Canticle of the Sun'.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On 17th September, members of the Vestry attended a meeting at the church with the gas installation engineers who formally handed over our new central heating system. The project was completed ahead of schedule and within budget and we now have a lovely working system. The church will be warm throughout the autumn and winter no matter what the weather is like outside.

As Treasurer, I must now pay for this. The final bill comes to just under £50,343. This is less than we had feared, and I'm delighted to say that we have enough money in our reserves to pay this, thanks to the generosity of so many of you.

Towards this bill we have had donations (including Gift Aid) totalling £21,480 and grants of £6,250 leaving a shortfall of £22,613. We hope to cover all or most of this balance with a grant from the Provincial Buildings Fund. We submitted an application a couple of months ago and the committee meets later this month. We pray that they will look favourably on us.

We are very fortunate that the church hall has now reopened for the after school club and the Reindeer Playgroup which means we will have a lot more income in future months, although we are not able to hire out for children's birthday parties at weekends or for the monthly art class both of which brought in extra funds.

I'm still trying to get our refund from Scottish Power (see my report in the last magazine). They featured on the One Show last week and I was dismayed to learn that many customers are still waiting for refunds after two years. I'll keep trying.

Thanks again to all of you for your incredibly generous donations.

Colin Mair, Treasurer

HANDING IN OF SILVER SOCKS

In the current circumstances there will not be a specific 'handing in day' or a special plate in church for the socks. You can pay in your sock money at any time, but **not later than 1st November**, please.



The Treasurer would prefer not to handle quantities of coins, so it would be helpful to swap them for notes or a cheque. You can send a cheque to the Treasurer, or better still, make a payment direct to the church bank account.

Whatever method suits you best, please remember to include your name and state that it is Silver Sock money.

HOLY CROSS CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Thursday 1st Gregory the Illuminator, Bishop, Apostle of Armenia, c 332 and Thérèse of Lisieux, Carmelite, 1897 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Gregory brought the light of Christ to the people of Armenia in the third century. Armenia became the first Christian Kingdom and its people suffered a terrible genocide at the hands of the Ottoman Turks in the 20th century. Thérèse was a young French girl who became a Carmelite nun at the age of 15. She never did anything extraordinary but did ordinary things well and died of tuberculosis at the age of 25. Her autobiography became a spiritual classic and her 'little way' has inspired countless ordinary Christians to follow the gospel.

Friday 2nd Holy Guardian Angels

Each of us has an angel given to help us (Matthew 18:10, Acts 12:15) and today we give thanks for them.

Sunday 4th HARVEST FESTIVAL (18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST) Francis of Assisi – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Tuesday 6th Bruno, Monk and Founder of the Carthusian Order, 1101
Bruno was a canon and theology lecturer who decided to become a monk and eventually, in 1084, settled with his companions in the mountains at La Grande Chartreuse. He is a witness to the primacy of prayer. There was a Charterhouse (Carthusian monastery) at Perth in the middle ages and many in England, but today the only one in Britain is in Sussex.

Thursday 8th Alexander Penrose Forbes, Bishop, 1875 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Bishop Forbes was born in Edinburgh, served as a priest in the slums of Leeds and became Bishop of Brechin. He was one of the leaders of the Catholic renewal in the Scottish Episcopal Church, founding churches and a sisterhood, and encouraging a love of the Eucharist. He worked among the poor of Dundee and did heroic work during a cholera epidemic.

Friday 9th Triduana, Abbess

Little is known of her but her well and chapel survive at Restalrig and she was famed for curing diseases of the eyes.

Saturday 10th Thomas Traherne, Priest and Poet, 1674

Born in Hereford he lived a quiet life as a student and a priest. His poetry and meditations were discovered in the 20th century and are a magnificent evocation of innocence and the joy of God's creation.

Sunday 11th 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Monday 12th Elizabeth Fry, Social Reformer, 1845

She was a Quaker preacher, worked hard for prison reform and established a night shelter for the homeless.

Tuesday 13th Comgan of Lochalsh, Abbot, c.750

Little is known of him but he was active in the Lochalsh area and was greatly venerated in Turriff in Aberdeenshire. Legend makes him the uncle of St Fillan.

Wednesday 14th – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Thursday 15th Teresa of Avila, Carmelite, Teacher of the Faith, 1582 **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Teresa ran away from home to enter a Carmelite convent when she was 20. She reformed her order, founded many convents and, through her writings such as The Interior Castle, has remained one of the greatest spiritual guides of all time.

Saturday 17th Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr, c.107

Born about the time of the crucifixion, Ignatius became Bishop of Antioch and was martyred in Rome. On his way to Rome he wrote letters to Christian communities, rather like those of Paul, which show the centrality of the Eucharist and the Episcopate.

Sunday 18th LUKE THE EVANGELIST – Eucharist with Baptism 10.30 a.m.

Luke was a close friend of St Paul who calls him ‘the beloved physician’. He wrote a gospel and the Acts of the Apostles which reveal him to have had a love of Jesus, concern for the poor, the outcast and for women.

Monday 19th Henry Martyn, Priest and Missionary, 1812

An Evangelical Anglican from Cornwall, he went as a missionary to India, translated the New Testament into local languages and died in Armenia.

Wednesday 21st Fintán Munnu, Abbot, 635 – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Fintán was one of the O’Neills and, although a leper, he became a monk in one of Columba’s monasteries in Ireland. He came to Iona just as Columba died but Columba had had a vision and left instructions that he should be sent back to Ireland to be Abbot of Taghmon. Many ancient churches in Scotland are dedicated to him, especially around Loch Fyne.

Thursday 22nd – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 23rd James of Jerusalem, Martyr, 62

James, the brother of Jesus, was the first Bishop of Jerusalem and one of the leaders of the first Christian community. He was executed by being thrown down from the top of the Temple and beaten with a club. Most Churches identify him with the Apostle James the Less but the Scottish Episcopal Church and many scholars say they were two different people.

Sunday 25th 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday 28th SIMON AND JUDE, Apostles – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Simon the Zealot and Jude Thaddaeus were Apostles and are celebrated together because their relics are preserved in the same church in Rome. Jude is often called the patron of hopeless causes, possibly because his name is the same as that of Judas.

Thursday 29th James Hannington, Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Martyr, 1885 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

James was a Congregationalist who became an Anglican and, after Oxford, became a Missionary in Uganda. He and a group of local Christians were captured and martyred by King Mwanga who opposed the missionaries who condemned his corrupt ways.

Saturday 31st Bega, Abbess, c.660

An Irish nun who settled at St Bees in Cumbria and was associated with St Aidan and St Ebba of Coldingham. Her cult was popular in the Borders.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st ALL SAINTS – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

The day when we remember all the holy people, known and unknown, who are with God in heaven. The feast began in England in the eighth century, although there had been similar commemorations in Rome and the East.

Monday 2nd ALL SOULS – **Requiem Eucharist 7.30 p.m.**

All Souls is a day to remember and pray for the dead which was put into its current form by St Odilo of Cluny in the tenth century. The Scottish Episcopal Church has always prayed for our departed loved ones but this only became widespread in Anglicanism after the great slaughter of the First World War. It is a time when Christians often visit family graves.

Remembrance Sunday is 8th; the First Sunday of Advent is 29th

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.

WORSHIP

Our main service is the Sunday Eucharist which is celebrated in the church at 10.30 a.m. and is open to the public. All are welcome although numbers are limited – so far we have had a few seats left each week. Coronavirus precautions are in place and everyone is required to wear a mask or similar face covering (unless they have valid reasons not to) and to use hand sanitiser.

The 10.30 a.m. Wednesday Eucharist will, God and the Scottish Government willing, resume on 14th October in the church although there will not be the usual refreshments afterwards; the same precautions will be in place as on Sundays. To enable it to resume we will need volunteer cleaners and welcomers.

The weekly Holy Cross worship video has now ceased but recordings are still available on our YouTube channel and we hope to share more later:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCBIGcZmVqp_sfgYon3WU28w/videos

On Thursdays at 5 p.m. a group from Holy Cross continues to meet on Zoom to say Evening Prayer. All the words are provided. I send out an invitation each week to those who regularly take part and if you wish to join us, email rector.hce@gmail.com and I will send you the invitation and password to enable you to join in on your computer (it needs to have a camera).

SUNDAY READINGS

4th October	HARVEST (Pentecost 18) Deuteronomy 26.1-11 Psalm 65 2 Corinthians 9.6-15 Luke 17.11-19	25th Oct.	PENTECOST 21 Leviticus 19.1-2,15-18 Psalm 1 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8 Matthew 22.34-46
11th Oct.	PENTECOST 19 Isaiah 25.1-9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4.1-9 Matthew 22.1-14	1st Nov.	ALL SAINTS Revelation 7.9-17 Psalm 34.1-10 1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12
18th Oct. (Baptism)	St LUKE, Evangelist 2 Timothy 4.5-13 Psalm 147.1-7 Luke 10.1-9		