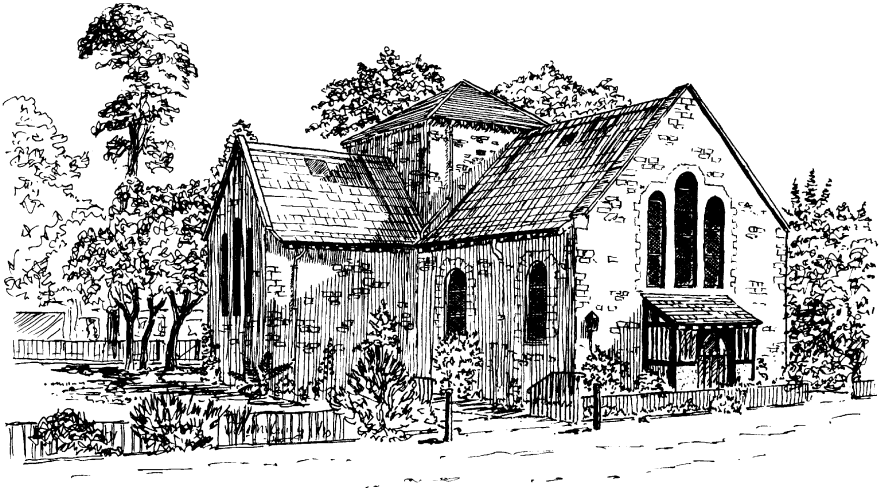


Church of the Holy Cross

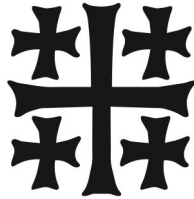
DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

OCTOBER 2021



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

Thanks to all who contributed to the celebration of our patronal feast, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, last month in a wonderful variety of ways. Over 90 people attended the services where we found ourselves singing music from the Latin anthem 'Sub tuum praesidium' (which in its original Greek is older than most early manuscripts of the New Testament) to 'If I were a butterfly' with its memorable actions and the line 'if I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear'. There was also our usual Sung Eucharist and the profound, incense-laden silence and chants of the two-hour candlelit Holy Cross Vigil. Our mission is enhanced by a variety of types of worship. We normally have our annual Gift Day on our patronal feast. Last year we did not hold it because you had been so generous in donating to the new heating appeal, but if you wish to make a donation this year please send it to Colin Mair our Treasurer.

The 'fuzzy wuzzy bear' was part of our first new children's service, and Izzy, whom the Vestry and I have appointed as our **Children and Families Ministry** Coordinator, writes elsewhere about this and other exciting new developments and experiments.

Jesus told us to love our neighbour and if we do not do this in practical ways we are not a real Church. We have been supporting the Granton Food Bank, where Anne Williams works, but this year they no longer need food donations so we will be collecting food this Harvest Festival for the **Food Bank** at our sister Episcopal Church of St Salvador's, Stenhouse. The congregation has seen remarkable growth in recent years under the leadership of Fr Andrew Bain but sadly there has also been an increase in need for the services of their Food Bank. St Salvador's has a 'mixed mode' ordinand ('trainee priest learning on the job' in normal language) working in the congregation, Ross Jesmont, and he will be preaching at Holy Cross on All Saints Sunday, 31st October.

It was good to have the Scottish Plainsong Choir and the *Schola Sancti Cuthberti* here last month for the Latin Vigil Mass on Holy Cross Day. This month will see a concert at Holy Cross, **New Music for Clarinet and Piano**, which includes the premiere performance of 'What's for you...' by Jennifer Martin, a composer who works closely with Sir James Macmillan. Our church is an excellent space for chamber concerts and this one has been arranged with the charity Live Music Now Scotland which supplied the professional musicians for our Advent and Christmas services last year.

Entrance is free and there will be a collection for Live Music Now and our Hall Renewal Fund. Do come along and enjoy the music.

Sunday 9 a.m. Eucharist. Thanks to all who answered my questionnaire; some responses are still coming in. It has been a very useful exercise which will influence developments at Holy Cross over the next few years. The old 8 a.m. Eucharist had almost died out in recent years but a number of you expressed support for a 9 a.m. service. We will introduce this for an experimental period from 31st October until Christmas. This will be a short (half-hour), quiet and meditative service using the traditional language of the Prayer Book and the 1970 Scottish Liturgy with no sermon but a short comment on the readings or feast. Many of you said that you valued traditional language in worship and this will contribute to the variety of our worship offering. From comments on the questionnaire this might be right for those for whom the sung service is too much, those with small children or who are going out on a Sunday, those who love the language of the Book of Common Prayer, and those 'addicted to contemplation'. Some may want to attend it occasionally and you can always come back for coffee in the hall at 11.30 a.m. after reading the paper!

I will be on annual leave for the first two weeks of October and will not be contactable then. Any enquiries may be made to the church wardens and the Revd Andrew Bain (andrewbain99@hotmail.com) will be available for pastoral emergencies. We are fortunate to have a number of clergy who enjoy helping out at Holy Cross and this time the Eucharist will be celebrated by the Revd Eileen Thompson, the Revd Sarah Miller and Bishop David Chillingworth (the former Primus). Fr John Penman who has often supplied here is now fully engaged with his new congregation at St Vincent's, Stockbridge.

Included in our prayers this month are those who continue to suffer from Covid, as the virus is still present among us, the people of Afghanistan and all who suffer under oppressive regimes. We also pray for Iona Evans who died last month and for her husband Richard and son Philip and family. A number of members of our congregation have suffered bereavements in the last month, may they and all who suffer be comforted by the love of Christ and the support of family and friends.

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen", with a horizontal line underneath.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral: Iona Evans on 24th September.

HARVEST GIFTS



The Granton 'Basics Bank' is not able to take our donations this year. Instead, our Harvest gifts will go to the [Food Bank](#) at St Salvador's, Stenhouse. They want non-perishable food, especially tins of soup, meat, vegetables etc.; pasta, rice, cereals; tea, coffee, sugar; items that can be cooked in a microwave.

Bring your gifts on Harvest Sunday, 3rd October. Alternatively, you can make a cash donation to 83 91 46; 20400642; CAF Bank Ltd; St Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church. Please put 'Foodbank HC' in the subject box.

CONCERT

NEW MUSIC FOR CLARINET AND PIANO SUNDAY 24TH OCTOBER at 3 p.m.

Calum Robertson (clarinet) and Juliette Philogène (piano) playing two pieces by Jennifer Martin, one being the premiere of a newly commissioned work, 'What's for you....'.

Admission is free. There will be a collection for [Live Music Now Scotland](#) and our Hall Renewal Fund.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to Janette for filling the gap in September.

3rd October	Harvest – Please contact Sarah about donations or help.
10th October	Nicole Elvin
17th October	Ron Gillies
24th October	Jenny Harrison
31st October	Sarah Millée



Flower Rota 2021

The flower rota has a few spaces. Please fill them. Write your name on the list on the noticeboard, or contact Sarah. For further information, or if you would like to donate the flowers but not arrange them, please contact Sarah (sarahmillee@aol.com).

TREASURER'S REPORT

31st August is the end of Holy Cross's financial year and I have been preparing our annual accounts ahead of the AGM in November. The accounts will give a full picture of our finances over the past year but I wanted to give a brief summary of the position now and my expectations for next year.

2020/21 has been an expensive year for Holy Cross, although not all of it was unexpected. We started the financial year with an inflated bank balance having raised the money to have the church central heating system replaced, but not having paid for it. I quickly rectified this by paying the bill in September 2020. I think most will agree that the church is a lot warmer than at Stephen's Institution in February 2020!

We also had to replace the boiler in the hall, had the hall floor sanded and varnished (the children's groups were quite rightly worried about splinters) and had a large sycamore felled.

As a result of these expenses and with the loss of hall rental income in the first three months of 2021, coupled with the cancellation of our usual fund-raising activities (Christmas Fair, Summer Fete and Bridge Afternoon), our reserves are somewhat depleted.

On the positive side, the congregation continued to give generously, we had a welcome hall-let over the school summer holidays and we finally received our refund from Scottish Power for overpaid gas and electricity in the Rectory.

We now hope for a more normal year with more income and less expenditure. In particular we start the year with the hall fully booked during the week and if we can attract bookings for children's parties at the weekends we can expect an increase in rental income (lockdown permitting).

We are aware of necessary building work – in particular:

- 1) repointing the Rectory stonework and painting the woodwork
- 2) having the exterior (and possibly also the interior) of the hall painted.

However, our past success in raising funds to pay for major refurbishment projects leaves me confident that we can meet the challenges facing us in 2021/22 and carry out necessary work and at the same time replenish our financial reserves.

Colin Mair

September 2021

HARVEST LUNCH

Sunday 3rd October in the hall after the service.



£5 – food provided, bring a bottle. Help needed at 5 p.m. on Saturday to set up tables – contact Janette janettemiller17@hotmail.com



SALE OF PICTURES AND SCOTTISH BOOKS

**St Andrew's & St George's West Church, George Street
Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th October
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day**

There will also be a **Coffee Morning** from 10 to 12 on the Saturday.

ALL SOULS REQUIEM

7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 2nd November

A list for the departed to be prayed for will be available beforehand.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

4 p.m.

Sunday 7th November

Saying Goodbye: Remembering those we miss

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday 21st November

More details and papers to follow nearer the time, but start thinking now about elections to the Vestry and other posts.

DAVIDSON'S MAINS CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 27th November

There will be no lights switch-on event this year, but plans are in hand for a Christmas Fayre. More details later.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

On Sunday 12th September, as part of the Holy Cross patronal feast celebrations, we had a family service on the theme of 'caring for creation: loving the world around us'. It was a half-hour service in the afternoon and was attended by a small group of children and parents, which allowed us to keep the service relaxed and informal. The group included both new people and some who have attended Holy Cross before. We gathered in the children's corner in the south transept, where the children could play and



move about as we'd hoped. We read the story of Creation from my current favourite children's Bible, 'Tiny Truths', and talked about what it means that we are part of creation, and that we are responsible for it. What does God want us to do? We talked about how we could keep our minds on God's creation when we are indoors, so searched the church for things that remind us of the creation outside its doors: stones, wood, beeswax candles, images of animals and plants on the kneelers and in the stained glass, the mouse on the base of the

paschal candle stand. Stephen pointed out that the icons include pigments made from various earthy materials, plus gold and egg. We sang songs about creation and started the service with Fischy Music's lovely song 'Welcome everybody, it's good to see you here'. After the service we went over to the hall for refreshments – people brought their own packed tea to go with the cake and drinks provided by us.

I led the service, David Townhill played the keyboard, and a friend of mine, Sue Lyons, from St John's Church Choir came to help boost the singing. Stephen led prayers, and Jenny Harrison and Angela Gardner helped welcome people and serve drinks afterwards. Thank you to you all!

The service felt like something with real potential. The content of the service was aimed at both the children and their parents, which worked well. Everyone got involved in the 'search the church' activity, and the adults contributed to the prayers when invited by Stephen. The chance to chat in the hall afterwards was as important a part of the occasion as the service itself. Although small, it was a very good example of people coming together in community. I look forward to the next one.

This family service was the first instalment in what will be six months or so of experiments – trying different types of services to see what people want and what works for Holy Cross. I thought I'd tell you what we have planned, though things may change as new ideas come to light and the experiments succeed or fail!

November: We have another Sunday afternoon family service planned, with the same format as the first one but on the theme of 'saying goodbye: a service to remember those we miss'. That may be people (or pets) who have died, or people we haven't see for a long time or don't get to see as often as we'd like – a common experience due to Covid. Songs, prayers and teaching about simple acts of remembrance that can be done alone or collectively.

December: Christingle on Christmas Eve. A Davidson's Mains favourite which needs little introduction! Which is in fact an excuse for me having no idea yet what normally happens at the service, other than that there are christingles and it's on Christmas Eve... But once I've found out what it's all about and we know what Covid restrictions will allow us to do, I'll be sending out more information.



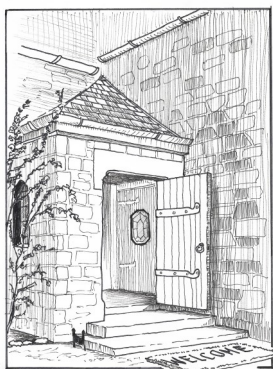
January: Buggy Services. On Friday mornings in January I'll be leading a short, informal service aimed at children aged 0–3(ish) and their parents. It will particularly be aimed at those who don't know much about church and/or wouldn't be comfortable coming to a bigger, more formal service. Each service will be based around a story from the Bible, with a second non-Bible story that highlights similar themes. There will be songs, some related to the Bible story and others which will be common to each service – a welcome song, a 'quietening down for prayer song' and a goodbye song. There will be a short bit of teaching, giving a simple message, and time for prayer, which will be an introduction to very simple and non-scary ways to pray, for those who've never tried it.

February: Open church. One afternoon per week the church will be open for a couple of hours for children and their parents to have some quiet time. The main focus will be the books in the children's corner. Thanks to funding from the Diocese and a couple of generous friends of mine, we have a lovely selection of Biblical/Christian books and modern children's stories (including a lot of books by the wonderful Julia Donaldson). Families will be able to come and read in a peaceful place and perhaps encounter stories and ideas about God, Christ, the Bible and Christianity that they wouldn't easily find elsewhere. This is an idea inspired by one of the families at the family service, who sat in the children's corner and read books together after the service. To make this 'open church' work, I and a couple of others would be on hand to welcome people and talk to anyone who wants to chat, answer questions, and perhaps show them things they can do when they go into a church, such as lighting candles or looking for particular signs and images. I imagine this to be for primary age children, but of course anyone would be welcome. I'm

looking for a source of funding for beanbags! Beanbags were a hit in our previous church in Padstow, with adults and children alike. I got stuck in one while pregnant and had to be rescued by two members of our confirmation class...

March: Lent. I want to run something through Lent for families with young children, specifically focussing on Lent but also on related ideas such as quiet space, contemplation, reflection, emotions. I don't yet know what form this offering will take as I want to see how the next few months go so that I can decide what will work best. It may be a continuation of the Buggy Services, or may be something completely different.

I've put these ideas out to parents across Edinburgh and have had very positive feedback. I'm in a Facebook group called 'Edinburgh for Under 5s' which has 10,800 members. I asked whether the Buggy Service in particular would be welcome and whether January was a good time, because people wanted to get out of the house, or a bad time, because they wouldn't want to go out then. Of course, not all 10,800 replied, but the answer was a resounding YES PLEASE. Over 80% of those who replied also said that mid-morning would work best. I'm yet to ask their opinion on the 'open church' idea, but over the last year I've learnt from this Facebook group (and my own experience) that what goes down well with parents of young children are activities that are relaxed and informal, where they and their children can learn and experience new things without having to worry about being judged or expected to sign up to something, happening in a place where they are made welcome without being overwhelmed, where it's OK if they're tired, and where their children can move about and be children. They (we) need something that doesn't cost too much and wherever possible, involves coffee and cake! These are all the things I'm bearing in mind while planning future

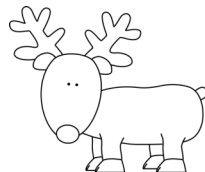


ministry; I am as interested in ministering to the parents as to the children because, after all, young children don't come to church on their own. I'll report back in future magazines as to how things are going. Please keep this new ministry (and me!) in your prayers over the coming months. At some point next year, we would like to settle into more of a pattern of services/offerings for children and families. Taking this time to experiment and pray is an important first step.

On a connected topic, I have now stepped down from chairing the committee of Reindeer

Playgroup. It has been an enjoyable, challenging and eye-opening year. I didn't realise quite how much work is involved in running a playgroup! Reindeer is an important part of the community both in Davidson's Mains and at Holy Cross; Stephen (Rector) refers to it as a 'partner organisation', with the intention that we continue to build links and support one another. The new chair is Anne Walker-Hall. She will use the same email address that I had as Chair: reindeerplaygroupchair@gmail.com. Anne's children went to Reindeer, she has recently retired from Social Work and she has chaired the group before; she took over from Arabella Kornahrens in 2004. The playgroup continues to face financial challenges after Covid restrictions and lockdowns. Lockdowns were costly, despite support from the furlough scheme, and it wasn't possible to do much fundraising as it was difficult to bring people together. There is much work for the new committee to do and I'm sure we'll hear more about that as it goes along. Please keep the playgroup in your prayers. The church continues to have a direct link with the playgroup through Zoe Kirkpatrick, the Church Rep (reindeerchurchrep@gmail.com). Also, Stephen and I hope to become 'Reindeer Parents' – a badge of honour! – as Bess is due to start attending the playgroup a couple of mornings a week in January.

Izzy Armstrong-Holmes



HARVEST/CREATION

Bright robes of gold the fields adorn,
The hills with joy are ringing,
The valleys stand so thick with corn
That even they are singing.

W Chatterton Dix

Sadly, climate change means that there are many places where this is not true.

But have you noticed how lively the earth is in the Bible? The valleys sing, the trees of the field clap their hands, the mountains skip like rams and the little hills like young sheep.

The whole of creation praises its maker in any way it can.

OCTOBER KALENDA & READINGS 2021

'Creationtide' is from 1st September to the Feast of St Francis, 4th October.

Friday 1st October – Gregory the Illuminator, Bishop, Apostle of Armenia, c 332 and Thérèse of Lisieux, Carmelite, 1897

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.

Saturday 2nd October – 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 3rd October – HARVEST FESTIVAL (PENTECOST 19) – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Collect: Almighty and Everlasting God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: give us grateful hearts that we may sincerely thank you for your loving kindness and praise your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

Readings: Joel 2:21-27 Psalm 126 I Timothy 2.1-7 Matthew 6.25-33

Monday 4th October – Francis of Assisi, Franciscan, 1226

Born in Assisi, he helped his father with his cloth business but, after suffering in war, he heard Christ speaking to him from a crucifix at San Damiano and set off on a life of poverty. His companions became the Franciscan Order, he was ordained deacon and he received the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, shortly before his death. Many follow his example today and there are Franciscan brothers and sisters in the Anglican communion.

Wednesday 6th October – Bruno, Monk and Founder of the Carthusian Order, 1101 – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Jonah 4.1-11 Psalm 86.1-10 Luke 11.1-4

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 7th October – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 8th October – Alexander Penrose Forbes, Bishop, 1875

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.

Saturday 9th October – 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.

Sunday 10th October – 20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Collect: O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

Readings: Amos 5.6-7,10-15 Psalm 90.12-17 Hebrews 4.12-16
Mark 10.17-31

Tuesday 12th October – Elizabeth Fry, Social Reformer, 1845

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

Wednesday 13th October – Comgan of Lochalsh, Abbot, c.750 – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Romans 2.1-11 Psalm 98 Luke 11.29-32

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.

Thursday 14th October – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 15th October – Teresa of Avila, Carmelite, Teacher of the Faith, 1582

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.

Sunday 17th October – 21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Collect: O God our Father, your gift of the Holy Spirit to your Church equips us to do your will: grant that we being ready in body and soul may cheerfully accomplish those things you would have done; through Jesus Christ our

Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

Readings: Isaiah 53.4-12 Psalm 91.9-16 Hebrews 5.1-10
Mark 10.35-45

Monday 18th October – Luke the Evangelist

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, for the outcast and for women.

Tuesday 19th October – 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 20th October – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Romans 6.12-18 Psalm 124 Luke 12.39-48

Thursday 21st October – Fintán Munnu, Abbot, 635 – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.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.

Saturday 23rd October – 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 24th October – 22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 10.30 a.m. – Concert 3 p.m.

Collect: Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

Readings: Jeremiah 31.7-9 Psalm 126 Hebrews 7.23-28
Mark 10.46-52

Wednesday 27th October – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Romans 8.26-30 Psalm 13 Luke 13.22-30

Thursday 28th October – Simon and Jude, Apostles – Evening

Prayer on Zoom 5 p.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.

Friday 29th October – James Hannington, Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Martyr, 1885

James was 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.

Sunday 31st October – ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Collect: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys which you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

Readings: Wisdom 3.1-9 Psalm 24.1-6 Revelation 21.1-6a
John 11.32-44

Tuesday 2nd November – All Souls Requiem 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 7th November – Pentecost 24

Readings: I Kings 17.8-16 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9.24-28
Mark 12.38-44

WORSHIP

Our usual weekly services are:

Sunday 10.30 a.m. Eucharist

Wednesday 10.30 a.m. Eucharist

Thursday 5 p.m. Evening Prayer on Zoom

We pray together for about half an hour, using the fixed words of the service with a space for free prayer. To join us contact the Rector.

