

# Church of the Holy Cross

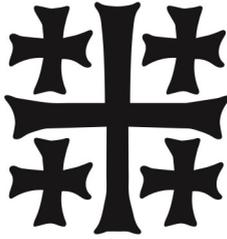
DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

APRIL 2022



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

Last month I wrote reflecting on the unexpected pandemic which has characterised my first two years at Holy Cross. Since then our continent has seen the outbreak of a terrible war in Ukraine and millions of refugees crossing borders to escape the murderous onslaught of Russian aggression. We can feel powerless at the evil we see on our screens but there are things we can do and are already doing at Holy Cross.

Prayer is first. A prayer that names the evil, asks God to deal with it and calls down the mercy of God upon those who suffer. Christ has already defeated evil on the cross, so we can pray with confidence. Secondly, St James said 'faith without works is dead' (James 2.17) and so we need to do something to help Ukraine according to our abilities.

Dominic Harris, whose son lit our Advent candles in December, took a minibus with medical supplies to the Ukrainian border and ferried refugees back to Berlin. Not all can do that but we have donated money for Ukraine and I am collecting offers to help Ukrainian refugees when they come to Edinburgh. I have also signed us up to the Sanctuary Foundation ([www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk](http://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk)).

One Holy Cross family has registered to host refugees and others are considering it. Others have offered to help the refugees in different ways. I have been moved by the generous offers both in money and time. We have started conversations with Edinburgh Council and other local churches about this. I will keep you informed and would welcome other offers of support which Holy Cross can coordinate.

When this magazine is published we will be well on our way through Lent on our journey to the Cross and Easter. Our Holy Week services are given on page 5 and I want to emphasise the importance of the 'Triduum', the three days from the Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday to the Easter Vigil on Saturday night. This gives us a unique opportunity to join Jesus on his journey through death to life and be changed by it. I encourage you to join us in the three services of the Triduum if you can.

This year we are also having 'Tenebrae', a powerful and dramatic service sung by lay clerks from the cathedral, on Wednesday in Holy Week. In a completely different mode, on Monday in Holy Week we are joining with Cramond Kirk for an evening with Richard Holloway, former Bishop of Edinburgh and Chair of the Scottish Arts Council, for a discussion on his

books and his own spiritual journey. Richard is always a stimulating speaker and, paradoxically, has helped many on their journey of faith.

Holy Week and Easter is the centre of our faith but around it our life goes on. Covid is still prevalent and a number of us have had it recently. It is generally less severe, thanks to the variant and vaccinations, and so restrictions are still being lifted. We will discuss this at Vestry and I will keep you informed of developments. It is likely that communion from the chalice will be restored but you will be free to continue receiving under the form of bread alone if you wish – I explained in the last magazine that you lose no spiritual benefits by doing this.

It seems probable, however, that you will not be allowed to 'self-intinct'. This is a technical term for taking the bread and dipping it in the wine. I know some of you did this previously but, by touching the bread and putting your fingers near the wine, there is an increased danger of contamination. Like having communion wine in individual glasses, it also destroys the nature of the sacrament as something we receive rather than grab individually.

Communion forms community and there will be various community activities in the next few months. The Holy Cross pilgrimage is noted on page 10 and we intend to have another Garden Day at the end of the month when we tidy up our church grounds on a Saturday morning accompanied by tea and bacon rolls. The garden has been beautified by a new tree planted in honour of the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, described elsewhere by Ian Elvin, and we hope to have a congregational event for the Jubilee.

Our children and families ministry is working with the charity Live Music Now Scotland to host a series of concerts for young children at Holy Cross: 'Traditional Tales for Tiny People'. These will be based on tales and music from Orkney, with Orcadian performers, and will be at 2 p.m. on the first Sunday in the month from May to October. It is good that we are building a relationship with Live Music Now Scotland who do great work supporting young professional musicians. They supplied the performers for our Christmas carol services in 2020 when we were not allowed to sing.

With love in Christ,

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



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES



### **Palm Sunday 10th April**

9 a.m. Eucharist

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist with Procession and Palms.

### **Monday 11th April**

11.30 a.m. Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral. Join Bishop John and the clergy of the diocese as they renew their ordination vows and he consecrates the Holy Oils for the new year, which are used in baptism, ordination and anointing the sick.

7.30 p.m. at Cramond Kirk. 'One Man's Journey: an evening with Richard Holloway', a joint Holy Cross and Cramond Kirk event, introduced by the Rector and the Revd Ian Gilmour. Tickets £8 (£6 concessions) from 0131 336 2036 or [office@cramondkirk.org.uk](mailto:office@cramondkirk.org.uk) (*apologies, this was wrong in the March magazine – no dot between cramond and kirk!*). Fr Stephen now has some tickets for Holy Cross.

### **Wednesday 13th April**

10.30 a.m. Eucharist

**7.30 p.m. Tenebrae** sung by lay clerks from St Mary's Cathedral. This traditional service is Matins of Maundy Thursday and is traditionally anticipated on Wednesday evening. 'Tenebrae' means darkness. The Lamentations of Jeremiah are sung, as are psalms and responses during which 14 candles are extinguished until only one remains, symbolising Christ abandoned by all. It is a very dramatic service.

### **Maundy Thursday 14th April**

**7.30 p.m. Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper** followed by watching at the altar of repose until midnight. (No Evening Prayer.)

### **Good Friday 15th April**

**2 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion**

### **Holy Saturday 16th April**

**9 p.m. Easter Vigil and Eucharist**

### **Easter Sunday 17th April**

9 a.m. Eucharist

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

*Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

The church remains unadorned until Easter (17th April).

**Easter Flowers** Sarah would welcome donations to the cost of flowers. Please consult her about any gifts of flowers or greenery as there is an overall plan. The church will be decorated on the morning of Holy Saturday.



**Flower Rota 2022** is on the noticeboard. There are a lot of gaps over the summer, so sign up to avoid a rather bare church. If you would like to donate the flowers but not arrange them yourself please contact Sarah.



## BISHOP OF EDINBURGH'S LENT APPEAL THE WELCOMING

The Welcoming is a local charity which supports refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to feel at home in Edinburgh. It does this by: supporting them to learn English, find jobs and access local services; offering opportunities for friendship, creativity, health and wellbeing; connecting locals and newcomers through social and cultural exchange; collaborating with others to share knowledge and influence positive change. It does great work, and the situation in Ukraine means that its services will be needed more than ever in the near future.

To donate, make a bank transfer to Holy Cross with the subject 'Lent Appeal' (bank details inside front cover) or give a cheque or cash to the Treasurer. Be sure to mark your gift 'Lent Appeal'.

## LENT GROUP

The Lent Group is meeting on Wednesdays in the church at 7.30 p.m. until 6th April. We are looking at big themes in the Christian life, faith, prayer and healing, by studying a section of Scripture and discussing questions based on the text from our new website. If you are interested contact the Rector.

## DIRECTORY - CORRECTION

Landline and mobile numbers for Jean Williams are both in the Directory. Jean would very much prefer you to use the landline **not** the mobile. Leave a message if necessary and she will get back to you quickly.

**EASTER WINGS**  
**By George Herbert (1593–1633)**

Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,  
Though foolishly he lost the same,  
Decaying more and more,  
Till he became  
Most poore:  
With thee  
O let me rise  
As larks, harmoniously,  
And sing this day thy victories:  
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

My tender age in sorrow did beginne:  
And still with sicknesses and shame,  
Thou didst so punish sinne,  
That I became  
Most thinne.  
With thee  
Let me combine,  
And feel thy victorie:  
For, if I imp my wing on thine,  
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.

Extracts from *My Sour-Sweet Days: George Herbert and the Journey of the Soul*  
by Mark Oakley:

If you turn the poem 90 degrees clockwise you will see how the poem is the shape of two sets of wings.

The biblical passages referenced in this poem are:

The Sun of righteousness will arise 'with healing in his wings' (Malachi 4:2) and 'They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles' (Isaiah 40:31).

The wings are Christ's as he soars in heaven with majestic beauty. They are also Herbert's, feeling their way on the new currents of Christ's risen life. Herbert may have felt that he had been grounded in life for too long by sickness, sin, sorrow and shame but is now gratefully learning to sing because he is free and to fly, because Christ is bearing him up with a love he had never known was possible.

## THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

'The Queen's Green Canopy' is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to '**Plant a Tree for the Jubilee**'. To learn more visit: [queensgreencanopy.org](http://queensgreencanopy.org)

The Vestry has accepted a suggestion to participate in this project by planting a tree in our own grounds. *Cornus controversa* 'Variegata' (see [www.rhs.org.uk/plants/113383/i-cornus-controversa-i-variegata-\(v\)/details](http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/113383/i-cornus-controversa-i-variegata-(v)/details)), a slow growing giant dogwood commonly known as the 'wedding cake tree', has been chosen because of its distinctive, horizontal, tiered habit. It has bright green leaves with bold, creamy white margins, which turn red-purple in autumn, and produces clusters of white flowers in June evolving to red fruits later in the season. The tree can attain a height of around 3.0 m in approximately 20 years – its final height is around 8.0 m – and has the Royal Horticultural Society 'Award of Garden Merit'.

The tree has been planted in the small lawn on the west side of the berberis hedge near the Garden of Remembrance, on the same axis as the path leading from the gate on East Barnton Avenue.

*Ian Elvin*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TODDLER CHURCH BLESSING

(To the tune of 'Sing a Song of Sixpence')

May the Lord now bless us  
and keep us all safe.  
Send us out from here  
filled with love and grace.  
Take the things we've learnt  
and the special things we know,  
and help us all to make the world  
a place where love can grow.



The Holy Cross buggy services have now turned into Toddler Church and we thought you might like to see one of the songs we sing there, and sing it at home!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to all of you who have sent payments for magazines following the reminder in last month's edition.

Finances remain close to our budget at the end of February despite paying for repairs to the Rectory garden wall. However, we have some costly maintenance work in the pipeline over the spring – in particular, painting the exterior of the hall and repointing the Rectory stonework. We have already received a grant to cover the hall paintwork and the splendid new church sign on Quality Street, and we hope to be able to claim some money back for the Rectory pointing, but I am anticipating our bank balance to take a hit.

I am also anxiously watching the prices of gas and electricity. I don't yet have a clear picture of the new gas costs, having been forced to change providers in December, but they are undoubtedly considerably higher.

On the positive side, I am getting close to making my first claim for Gift Aid having taken over the role of Gift Aid Secretary from Tim Sale who did the job diligently for 28 years. A hard act to follow – thanks for all your work, Tim. This claim will give a welcome boost to our bank balance.

During the past fortnight we have been collecting donations for humanitarian aid in Ukraine. Many of you have given very generously and I have sent a donation of £550 to the Association of Friends of Ukraine who will use it towards children's services, crisis counselling and emergency medicine packs. We wish them well in providing this lifeline to people in Ukraine.

*Colin Mair*

### BIBLE PUZZLE

'I once made a remark about hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu: kept people looking so hard for facts. And for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews cups of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.'

*Answers on page 12*



## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022**

**15th to 21st May**

**Help turn hunger into hope**

There will be no house-to-house collection in Davidson's Mains this year. The Parish Church is looking for some other way of raising awareness and funds. I hope to have full details for the next magazine.

In some places the house-to-house is continuing. If you live in Cramond parish you may well have the familiar red envelope dropping through your letterbox. Cramond Kirk is also holding a Christian Aid Quiz Night, probably on Thursday 19th May – details to follow.

### **The Book Sale is back! Time to restock your shelves**

The Book Sale at St Andrew's and St George's West Church, George Street, will be open on Saturday 14th May from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday 16th to Friday 20th May from 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. (late opening to 7 p.m. on Thursday). The Art Sale will take place separately in October.

The Undercroft Café will be open all day.

Items for the sale may be taken to the church from Monday 2nd May to Wednesday 11th May (excluding Sunday) from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (5 p.m. on Saturday). Books of every kind, antiques and collectables, printed ephemera, stamps and postcards, sheet music, games and jigsaws.

*Margaret Deas*

## **HOLY CROSS PILGRIMAGE TO ST ANDREWS**

**Saturday 25th June 2022**



The Scottish Episcopal Year of Pilgrimage in 2020 was scuppered by events. This year we plan to go to the main Scottish pilgrimage centre of St Andrews to pray and eat together. A pilgrimage, as anyone who has read Chaucer knows, is a social as well as a spiritual event and when we discussed this at Vestry good chip shops and ice cream parlours were mentioned. Fr Alistair Coles of All Saints Church, St Andrews has generously offered his church and rectory for our use as a base and there is lots to see in the holy city on its dramatic promontory. More information to follow later...

## THE CONTEMPLATIVE RESPONSE by IAN COWLEY

*Review by Andrew Vass*

There are many books on contemplation so what makes this one different? And does it do what it says on the tin – help us focus on leadership for a distracted world?

The first innovative idea is that with contemplation we are addressing the problems created by **'false self'**. False self (sometimes called the ego) is an inner part which is very **'me first'** in attitude. It is our default tendency, and along with culture it can pull us in an unethical direction. I agree that the ego is a problem for us (and is much more than simply a pride-based one). But Cowley identifies ego with sinfulness a little too much. I take a slightly more Buddhist view – I see ego as linked to our failing self, whereas one's better self is more ethical while also having an optimistic sense of being able to overcome difficulties. There are signs that later in the book Cowley agrees with me. He quotes Bruce Springsteen's lyrics, 'When you're alone, there's things that will knock you down'. But I think it is too important a point to be left in the later fine details. We Christians have often been defined as judgemental 'Holy Willie' types.

Like other contemplatives, Cowley writes with a language that is similar to Buddhism in many respects. We all need to learn detachment because the concept is not exclusively Buddhist. It can be found in Christian verse, 'counting all things as loss because of the surpassing worth of Jesus'. The Holy Spirit can lead contemplatives to have searching minds, but one nevertheless needs deepened awareness. As the Psalms tells us, 'deep calls to deep.... Oh Lord your thoughts are very deep'. We need to be aware of the limitations of culture. I agree, sometimes culture can be a legacy burden which we need to detach from. Internet culture for example, can make modern people shallower than ever before. Culture like the ocean has strong currents. But the wrong Christianity has strong currents too. Cowley struggled against Apartheid in South Africa. He shows how in Genesis 9.25 and in Joshua 9.22-3 you can find harsh ideas which can be used to promote vengeful and intemperate Christianity. The 'false self' finds such thoughts to be attractive and that is why we can get to be unthinkingly lost in our legacy burdens.

So, contemplation is a solution if one uses it as a vehicle to help one be in better self. This may involve one having the cry of the publican and tax collector, 'have mercy on a poor sinner' or the use of sacred words to help one practice having detachment from the power of thoughts and feelings.

Sacred words can give one the inspirational anchor which Theophan the Recluse referred us to: 'We must descend with the mind into the heart'. A sacred word can be simply to say, 'Thank you Abba'. Or one can use a longer phrase such as, 'Oh God make haste to help' (from Psalm 40 and Cassian).

Overall, this is a useful text, but we need to be wary of misunderstandings. Detachment is not another word for 'becoming an anarchist' or being uncaring in the midst of the anguish of others. Rather it means to lean against our tendency to judge things too quickly, with insidious black and white thoughts along with emotional reasoning. Jesus said, 'take every thought captive'. That is surely different from allowing oneself to be the captive of every thought. So here again we find detachment in Christian verse. And that makes the case for Christian contemplation – still the mind, and be with the heart.

## WORSHIP

Our usual weekly services are:

Sunday            9.00 a.m. Said Eucharist – 1970 liturgy  
                      10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist – 1982 liturgy

Wednesday 10.30 a.m. Eucharist

Thursday        5.00 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.

Fridays in March                    10.30 a.m. – Toddler Church

First Friday in the month    2.00 p.m. – Healing Eucharist with anointing

Any variations to the above are noted in the Kalendar.

## BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

I once made a **remark** about hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu: **kept** people **looking** so hard for **facts**. And for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam** especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of our readers. To others it was a real **job**. We want it to be a **most** fascinating few moments for you. **Yes, there** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit **it** usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says **she brews** cups of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.



*Collect:* God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may we receive the benefits of his Passion, the new life of his Resurrection, and the grace to love as he loves us; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Readings:* Exodus 12.1-14                      Psalm 31.9-16  
                  1 Corinthians 11.23-26        John 13.1-15

### **GOOD FRIDAY 15th April – 2 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion**

*The death of the Lord. The sacraments are not celebrated today.*

*Collect:* Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Readings:* Isaiah 52.13-53.12                      Psalm 22  
                  Hebrews 4.14-16;5.7-9                      John 18.1-19.42

### **HOLY SATURDAY 16th April**

*The descent of the Lord to the dead. The sacraments are not celebrated today.*

*Collect:* Almighty, ever-living God, whose Only-begotten Son descended to the realms of the dead, and rose from there to glory, grant that your faithful people who were buried with him in baptism, may, by his resurrection, obtain eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **THE EASTER VIGIL – night of 16th–17th April, beginning at 9 p.m.**

*The Resurrection of the Lord.*

*Collect:* O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption given to us in baptism; that, being renewed both in body and mind, we may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

*Readings:*

- 1) Genesis 1.1–2.4a with Psalm 136.1-9,23-26
- 2) Genesis 7.1-5,11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13 with Psalm 46
- 3) Genesis 22.1-18 with Psalm 16
- 4) Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20-21 with the Song of Moses  
(Exodus 15.1b-13,17-18)
- 5) Isaiah 55.1-11 with the Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 12.2-6)
- 6) Baruch 3.9-15,32–4.4 with Psalm 19
- 7) Ezekiel 36.24-28 with Psalms 42 and 43
- 8) Ezekiel 37.1-14 with Psalm 143
- 9) Zephaniah 3.14-20 with Psalm 98
- 10) Romans 6.3-11
- 11) Psalm 114
- 12) Matthew 28.1-10.

**Sunday 17th April – EASTER DAY – Easter Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Collect:* Lord of all life and power, through the mighty resurrection of your Son you overcame the old order of sin and death and opened to us the gate of Everlasting Life: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Readings:* Acts 10.34-43                      Psalm 118.1-2,14-24  
1 Corinthians 15.19-26      Luke 24.1-12

*Easter Week is celebrated as if each day is Easter Day.*

**Wednesday 20th April – 10.30 a.m. Eucharist**

*Readings:* Acts 3.1-10                      Psalm 105.1-9                      Luke 24.36b-48

**Thursday 21st April – 5 p.m. Evening Prayer on Zoom**

**Friday 22nd April – 10.30 a.m. Toddler Church**

**Sunday 24th April – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Low Sunday) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Collect:* Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Readings:* Acts 5.27-32                      Psalm 150  
Revelation 1.4-8                      John 20.19-31

Tuesday 26th April – Albert Laurie, Priest, of Old St Paul's, 1937

**Wednesday 27th April – Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894 – 10.30 a.m. Eucharist**

*Readings:* Acts 5.17-26                      Psalm 34.1-8                      John 3.31-36

**Thursday 28th April – 5 p.m. Evening Prayer on Zoom**

**Friday 29th April – Catherine of Siena, Mystic and Doctor of the Church, 1380 – 10.30 a.m. Toddler Church**

**Sunday 1st May – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Acts 9.1-6                      Psalm 30  
Revelation 5.11-14                      John 21.1-19

