



CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS : www.holycrossedinburgh.org

Congregational e-news for Easter 3

Sunday 18 April 2021

From the Rector, the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes

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Dear friends at Holy Cross,

I am writing this in bright sunshine and it is great that we are now back in Church for worship at all our usual services. It was good to be able to celebrate all the Holy Week and Easter services together and to see so many people in Church on Easter Day – I’m glad we added the 9am Holy Communion! In our prayers this weekend is the Duke of Edinburgh, whose funeral is on Saturday, and the Queen and royal family. Looking back over Prince Philip’s life, it feels like we are at the end of an era and, while it has been inspiring to hear of his work for young people and wildlife, it has also been good to hear of his practical Christian faith. We also pray for the Scottish Parliament elections next month and I am pleased that our hall will again be a polling centre.

During lockdown I sent out this e-news each week to keep the Holy Cross family and friends in touch with each other. Now I’ll probably send a newsletter around the middle of the month in addition to our magazine which comes out at the start of the month. There are about a hundred and twenty people who belong to Holy Cross in different ways, not all of whom can get to Church or receive the paper magazine, so I think this e-news still has a purpose. Let me know if you have any suggestions.



We look forward to the lifting of more restrictions in the next month, so let us thank God for that, while still praying for those who suffer the effects of the pandemic. It looks like the cap on numbers in churches will be lifted, though, at Holy Cross, 50 is about the maximum we can accommodate with social distancing. Unfortunately it looks like the ban on communal singing and receiving the consecrated wine at Holy Communion will be with us for quite a while, for good public health reasons, but fasting from things reminds us why we value them.

On Sunday 25th April the national Scottish Episcopal Church online ‘Children’s Chapel’ service for children and families will again be led by a team from Holy Cross, Izzy and Bess Holmes and David Townhill. It will be released at 8am that morning and can be watched at any time after that on the SEC YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtv9H_4N4c3JKM57zOj7GXw On this channel you can also find a Eucharist each Sunday, celebrated by one of our Bishops, for those who still can’t get to their Churches. It will be interesting to see what online worship survives when we are all back in our church buildings. I am organising a conference in September with the Scottish Episcopal Institute to discuss the theological meaning of online Eucharists. It is a very interesting question – our faith is not just about ideas but is very physical, involving bread, wine, water, oil, and touch. As such, it doesn’t translate very well onto a computer screen. I know others don’t agree with this so I trust we will have some good debate.

The Scottish Government allowed Churches to reopen for Holy Week (rather ironic as John Knox and the Scottish Protestant Reformers abolished Easter, though I’m glad our Church of Scotland friends have since rediscovered it!) but they also mentioned the start of Ramadan and the Hindu and Sikh festival of Vaisakhi. We can hold fast to the truths of our Christian faith and still

have respect for other religions that exist in our society. I believe that we are obliged to recognise goodness and truth wherever it is found, because it comes from God. For this reason, and for good neighbourliness, I sent greetings for Ramadan to the Blackhall Mosque on behalf of our Church.

We are in the midst of the Easter season, Fifty Days of Unremitting Joy! Each Sunday our liturgy reminds us of this. It is good that, even though we can't sing the fine Easter hymns, the words of our worship change according to the season to remind us of the good things God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

I will be on annual leave over the next month; first leave and a short retreat 26 April to 3 May, and then holiday from 15 to 29 May. Visiting priests will take all the Sunday and Wednesday services during this time, the Church Wardens will deal with any urgent issues and other local clergy will be available if you need a priest. Thank you for being so understanding about not contacting me when I am off duty. In normal times the best way to contact me is by email on rector@gmail.com, as I check this regularly, and then by mobile phone. It is always good to hear from you. Like most people today I tend not to use the landline phone but I do check it for messages. Unfortunately there have been problems with the Rectory line which have also affected our broadband (hence I disappeared from last Thursday's Zoom Evening Prayer for a while!) Sorry for any confusion but the engineers seem to have fixed it and the phone is working again.

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the Easter services go so smoothly and make them a good spiritual experience for our regulars and the many visitors. Thanks also to those who keep the Church, including our finances, building and grounds, in a good state. On Easter Saturday (i.e. the Saturday after Easter) I had the great joy of presiding at the wedding of Alison Mair and Stuart Storar at Holy Cross. Despite the restrictions it was a wonderfully joyful occasion and was live-streamed to four continents. I think that the wedding and our Holy Week and Easter services gave a great picture of who we are and what we can become as a Christian community in our part of North Edinburgh.

May God bless you and all whom you love,

With love in Christ,



SERVICES AT HOLY CROSS

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday 10.30am | Eucharist with Music |
| Wednesday 10.30am | Eucharist |
| Thursday 5pm | Evening Prayer on Zoom |

To join us just click on this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78181732182?pwd=T3VmVWhCTFBUS0NRbTh4Q0s4cWNUUT09>

The Rector will send out the order of service each week to those who wish to join us, it is also shared on the screen. Meeting ID: 781 8173 2182; Passcode: Ez0b6e.

KALENDAR & PRAYER LIST

The Holy Cross Kalendar is found in the magazine and a new one will come out in May which has the details of our Rogation Sunday and Ascension Day services.

HOLY CROSS PRAYER LIST

Sunday - Jennie C; Nancy M; Queen Elizabeth and the Governments in Westminster and Holyrood; Deacon Elias and the Syrian Orthodox congregation at Holy Cross; for all living and working in care homes; those who have died recently and their families, including Prince Philip, John Cook and Brian, and those whose anniversaries are at this time.

Monday - Graeme H; Robert M; our local schools, all children, parents and teachers; all expectant mothers and new-born babies; Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Ukraine and all countries in crisis; Cramond Kirk, as it seeks a new Minister.

Tuesday – Andy & Julia; Mike Holmes, Matthew Kirkpatrick and all recovering from operations & those with operations soon; all our benefactors; those worried about their jobs, businesses & their financial situation; good use of our Church garden and all who work in it; the departed, especially our relatives, friends and benefactors.

Wednesday - John; Andrew; Naomi; those working from home, Fr Peter & St Margaret's RC Church; the Reindeer play group, After School Club, Scouts and Guides and all our partner organisations and hall users.

Thursday - Lucy; Katrine; Alan Clark; the earth and the environmental crisis; the NHS, medical staff, emergency services and all key workers; Armenia and the Caucasus.

Friday - Margaret M; Minmin Yu; Carole Dyson (sister of Mother Mary Agnes SOLI of Shetland); those who live around us especially those who are finding life difficult and people with mental health problems; the USA; the departed, especially our relatives friends and benefactors.

Saturday - Molly; Isobel W-I; those suffering from Covid-19 and their families around the world; students and teachers at Universities and Colleges coping with the current restrictions; Rev Dan Robertson and Davidson's Mains Parish Church; persecuted Christians.