



CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS : www.holycrossedinburgh.org

Congregational e-news for the Passion Sunday (Lent 5)

Sunday 21 March 2021

From the Rector, the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes

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Dear friends at Holy Cross,

The opening of our Church is getting closer and I look forward to seeing many of you on Palm Sunday and for the Paschal Triduum (from an old Latin word meaning a period of three days). The Paschal or Easter Triduum is the three most important days of the Christian year and each day has its own special service. It is often said that if you come to all of them you and your faith will be transformed. This year we will do them as best we can within the limitations of our coronavirus plan – the country has not yet opened up and I am grateful to the Scottish Government (and the Bishops who have encouraged them) for allowing us to celebrate Holy Week and Easter.

We are among the first Churches to re-open (the other two churches in Davidson's Mains are also opening on Palm Sunday) but some are waiting for up to a couple of months before doing so. If you have friends at other churches which are still closed, do invite them to Holy Cross. By law we can only have up to 50 people in the building and distancing means we can actually only fit in about 27-47 people depending on whether they are in household groups. We will not have a booking system as we did not have to turn anyone away last year, though we were at capacity twice. The government hopes gradually to lift even these restrictions in May and June.

Whether the state has the right to prohibit public worship is another question, and I'll not visit it here as the restrictions have broadly been necessary and for the common good.

Details of our services are below and there are a couple of changes from my previous letter: The Maundy Thursday Eucharist is at **7.30pm** not 7pm and the Wednesday Eucharist will re-start on **14 April** not 21 April.

“Could you not watch with me one hour” (Matthew 26:40). The **Watch before the Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday** is a way of waiting with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (when the Apostles fell asleep), and we will do that from 8.30pm till Midnight. If you would like to take one of the half-hour watches please contact me.

I will take Monday to Wednesday of Easter week off, not the whole week as we are very pleased to have the wedding of Alison and Stuart on Easter Saturday (this is the Saturday after Easter, not the one before it as most people think!). My other, delayed, leave in this half of the year will be 26 April to 3 May and 15 to 20 May.

Our series of **Sunday worship videos** comes to an end this Sunday and I want to thank everyone who has taken part and shared them with friends and family. Highlights this series have been the Community Nativity and the Candlemass Procession which had 570 and 260 views, many more people than we'd get in Church. I'd particularly like to thank the Townhill family musicians, David, Katrine and Vaughan (I will make no reference to 'The Sound of Music') and Izzy Holmes who have contributed so much to these videos. It is good for a smallish church like us to produce our own fine, live music and not resort to recordings.

We had a good Vestry meeting last week and covered a lot of ground, much concerning buildings, finance and reopening for worship. We also agreed to appoint Izzy Holmes as Children

and Families' Ministry Co-ordinator to develop this aspect of our life and mission as we come out of the pandemic. She will write more about this in the April magazine, which Margaret hopes to issue in printed form together with the 2021 Holy Cross Directory.

There is a lot of good work going on in our grounds at the moment which look beautiful with all the Spring flowers. It is good that more member so the congregation are helping in the gardens, if you would like to join in see Anne Williams or Ian Elvin. Two suggestions have been made by members of the congregation which we would like to put into action and the garden team are looking at possibilities.

1. The daffodil cross is looking sad and scrappy. It has been suggested that as a thanksgiving for returning to worship in our Church we ask for donations to replant and reshape it, and perhaps plant some more bulbs in our grounds.

2. Davidson's Mains Park has a beautiful patch of wild flower meadow at its West end. It has been suggested that we have a similar patch, adapted to our site and shade, and the garden team are discussing this. The likely spot is to the left of the path to the Church from Quality Street, leaving the big lawns on the other side of the path untouched. As well as looking beautiful, this would make a contribution to the wildlife of our area.

Donations for these can be given to the Treasurer, when plans are ready, and if you would like to help, speak to Anne or Ian.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks,

With love in Christ,



SERVICES AT HOLY CROSS

Our first public service in Church will be at **10.30am on Palm Sunday, 28 March**. The **Paschal Triduum** runs from Maundy Thursday evening to Easter morning. Other services will be:

Maundy Thursday, 1 April, Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper, 7.30pm – a Eucharist followed by the stripping of the altar and a watch before the altar of repose.

Good Friday, 2 April, Liturgy of the Passion, 2pm – reading of the Passion according to John, prayers and the veneration of the cross, and holy communion from the reserved sacrament (the sacraments are not celebrated on Good Friday or Holy Saturday).

Holy Saturday, 3 April, the Easter Vigil, starting at 9pm and lasting for about 2 hours and ending with the first Eucharist of Easter.

Easter Day, 4 April, Easter Eucharist at 10.30am, and then on all following Sundays.

The **Wednesday Eucharist** will resume in Church on **Wednesday 14 April**.

Worship Videos. Holy Cross Sunday worship videos end this week but the Scottish Episcopal Church Sunday worship video and Children's Chapel video are published each Sunday on the SEC YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheScottishEpiscopalChurch>

Holy Cross Sunday Zoom Coffee

Our last meeting on Zoom is this Sunday, 21 March. After this we will be back in Church (although the rules do not yet allow socialising afterwards). Just click on this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73331381911?pwd=Vzk3bmN3bjM3MHkzNnpEL3VZTVB2QT09>

David Townhill is the Zoom host and here are the details: Meeting ID: 733 3138 1911; Passcode: bQKp59

Holy Cross Thursday Zoom Evening Prayer

This is now a 'recurring meeting' and happens each Thursday at 5pm. Those of us who take part have decided we appreciate it so much that we will continue praying together online. 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.



EASTER at HOLY CROSS

Love Wins - follow Jesus through these dramatic days in Jerusalem

28.3	PALM SUNDAY	10.30am
eucharist - enter jerusalem with jesus - receive palm crosses - listen to the passion story		
1.4	MAUNDY THURSDAY	7.30pm
evening eucharist of the lord's supper - the stripping of the altar - wait in vigil		
2.4	GOOD FRIDAY	2pm
listen to the passion story - pray for all - venerate the cross - receive holy communion		
3.4	EASTER VIGIL	9pm
two hour vigil - light and darkness - story of salvation - first eucharist of easter		
4.4	EASTER DAY	10.30am
joyful eucharist of the resurrection of jesus		

All welcome – coronavirus precautions in place (masks, distancing etc.)
 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. Holy Cross is an inclusive church. There is no discrimination on the basis of gender, disability, race, age, sexual orientation or social class.
 'For freedom Christ has set us free' Galatians 5:1

ON THE LOCKDOWN

Prophecy is presenting God's vision of the world.

"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

"And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

"And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."

Kitty O'Meara

MARCH KALENDAR & PRAYER LIST

This includes the daily Lent Readings. A 2021 Scottish Episcopalian kalendar with readings for every day, produced by the Provost of Glasgow Cathedral can be purchased here: <https://thurible.net/product/a-scottish-kalendar-for-2021/> The Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle can be downloaded here.

SUNDAY 21 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Passion Sunday) – Eucharist 10.30am

Lent changes gear this week as we enter Passiontide and fix our attention more firmly on Jesus' Cross and Resurrection. John 12:20-33

Collect: Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Christ our Lord, Amen

Monday 22 Thomas Ken, Bishop, 1711 John 8:1-11

Thomas Ken was Bishop of Bath and Wells and wrote some fine hymns including 'Awake my soul, and with the sun'. Although King James II had imprisoned him in the Tower of London, he remained loyal to him and refused to accept William of Orange. His famous last words were: 'I am dying in the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Faith professed by the whole Church before the disunion of East and West; and, more particularly, in the Communion of the Church of England, as it stands distinguished from both Papal and Protestant innovation, and adheres to the Doctrine of the Cross'.

Tuesday 23 John 8:21-30

Wednesday 24 Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr, 1980 – **Eucharist 10.30am**
John 8:31-47

Oscar Romero was the Archbishop of San Salvador. He spoke out against poverty, social injustice, assassinations, and torture amid a growing war between left-wing and right-wing forces and in was assassinated while celebrating Mass in the chapel of the Hospital of Divine Providence.

Thursday 25 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD – Eucharist 10.30am and Evening Prayer on Zoom 5pm
Luke 1:26-38

Collect: Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord: that, as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel to the Blessed Virgin Mary; so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Friday 26 Harriet Monsell, 1883 John 10:31-42

Born in Ireland, after the death of her husband Harriett founded the Community of St John Baptist, an order of Augustinian nuns in the Church of England dedicated to social service. By 1900 the Community had more than 3000 members in Great Britain, India and the United States.

Saturday 27 John 11:45-56

SUNDAY 28 – PALM SUNDAY – Eucharist 10.30am Mark 11:1-11

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender love towards the human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Christ our Lord, Amen

HOLY CROSS WEEKLY 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. Those whose anniversaries are this week, Elgar Dickinson, Hilda Andrews, Joyce Cheyne.

Monday - Graeme H; Robert M; our local schools, all children, parents and teachers; all expectant mothers and new-born babies; China; Cramond Kirk, as it seeks a new Minister.

Tuesday – Andy & Julia; Mike Holmes, Matthew Kirkpatrick, Cathy Gwinnell 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 and all our partner organisations and hall users affected by the lockdown.

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; those awaiting surgery or the results of tests.

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.