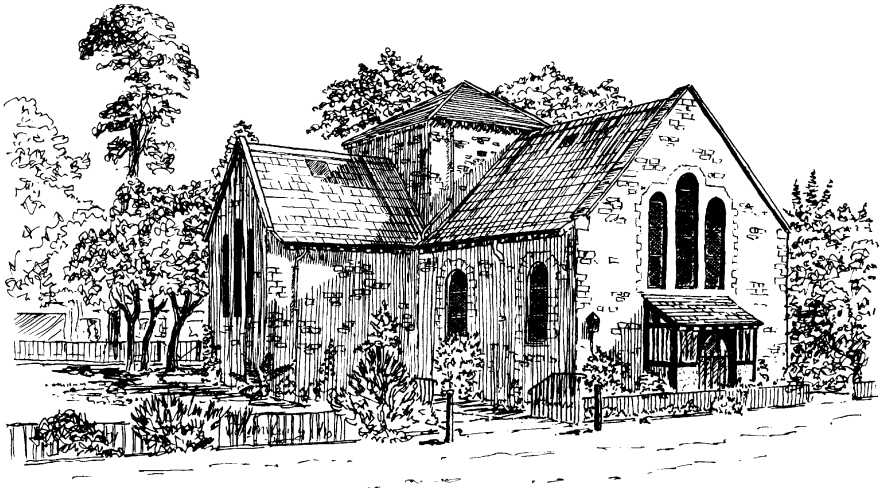


Church of the Holy Cross

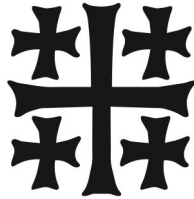
DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

JULY/AUGUST 2021



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

I write this with the sun shining and a lot of hope in the air for the Scottish football team in their match against England. Not only by the time you read this, but a few hours after I send it off to Margaret, we will know whether this hope was well placed! It is a bit like how things are with the current state of Covid restrictions, and the disease itself. It is an ever-changing situation and we are all trying to respond as best we can. The Vestry and I are monitoring things and we will keep you updated on questions like, 'can we sing?', or 'can we have the summer barbeque?'.

One good consequence of the crisis is that a small group of us still meets each week on Zoom to pray together. We pray the psalms and readings of Scottish Episcopal Daily Prayer and have a time of free prayer which sometimes becomes a glorious oasis of silence. It is at 5 p.m. on Thursdays; let me know if you would like to join us.

One thing I will be glad to be rid of is big Church meetings on Zoom. I attended my second online General Synod in June and, while it was good to see old friends on screen, it was not a good way of doing business. However, among the motions passed were: a commitment to making the Church carbon neutral by 2030; the first approval of a new edition of the 1982 Scottish Liturgy which we use for services at Holy Cross; a series of personnel policies including a recommendation that clergy take two days off a week; a document commending friendship with the Church of Scotland, while recognising we are not in full communion; and a decision to elect bishops by a large electoral synod, with representatives from all churches in the diocese rather than by a smaller group. Despite being Zoomed out, it was a privilege to be part of a healthy Church that is responding to the needs of the times.

During the lockdowns, it became clear to me how important our buildings are at Holy Cross. The church speaks of God, of community, and of memories and many of us miss it when we can't be there. The hall also carries memories and without the income it generates we could not continue our current way of life as a congregation. As the heart of our faith is God becoming human and giving new value to material things it is not surprising that buildings are part of our religion – but it is also not surprising that Christianity makes all buildings provisional and secondary to our true home in God's Temple in heaven.

This congregation must continue to look after our buildings, continuing the

good work of the stonework project and installation of the new heating system. We therefore need people to join a small committee to work with someone from the diocesan buildings committee to do this. You don't need to be an architect, just to have a talent for organisation, and the work will not be burdensome. Let me know if you might be interested – it is a good way of serving our community!

One of the best books I have read this year is Tom Holland's *Dominion*, which shows that Christianity is at the root of all the enduring values of Western culture. It also shows that Christianity is not just a 'Western' religion – it has roots all over the world. I was thus pleased to see, in the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland's book on the architecture of Edinburgh, a description of Holy Cross Church as 'a whiff of Armenia'! A building here, in a rather Scottish Romanesque style, but recalling the Christian East and looking out from Davidson's Mains to the wider world. May we be a community that shares the love of Christ with our neighbours, grows in faith and numbers, and reaches out to the wider world as we recently did in raising money for the Christian hospital in India.

Every blessing to you and your family, may you have a happy summer and may our society be able to open up more and more.

With love in Christ,



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

4th July	?	1st August	Jessie Wright
11th July	Neville Long	8th August	?
18th July	Sylvia Vass	15th August	?
25th July	Mary Egan	22nd August	?
		29th August	Kate Corliss

Flower Rota 2021 – HELP!

As you can see, the flower rota has rather a lot of spaces. Please fill them. Write your name on the list on the noticeboard, or contact Sarah.

Any style, simple or ornate, is welcome, so why not give it a try. There are plenty of vases and stands in the vestry. For further information, or if you would like to donate the flowers but not arrange them, please contact Sarah (sarahmillee@aol.com or 237 5147).

THANKS FROM CMC VELLORE



Ruth Tuckwell, Charity Manager of Friends of Vellore UK, writes:

Thank you so much for Holy Cross Church Edinburgh's very generous donation of £850.65 to Friends of Vellore in support of Covid costs at Christian Medical College Vellore. We are very grateful for your support, especially in this challenging time. Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to the church family.

Wonderfully, we have now raised £200,000 through our appeal to help CMC Vellore and associated smaller mission hospitals deliver healthcare to Covid patients. £50,000 has been transferred to CMC Vellore for oxygen concentrators, BIPAP machines, ventilators and to cover the cost of patient care. CMC now have 1,064 Covid beds including 121 ICU beds. In addition, there are over 650 patients in the monitored home isolation programme.

We have transferred £20,000 to Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Hospital to enable them to expand and upgrade their two-bed ICU, £20,000 each to Baptist Christian Hospital Tezpur and Miraj Medical Centre to enable them to purchase oxygen generators and £20,000 each to Asha Kiran Hospital, Lamtaput and Reynolds Memorial Hospital Washim for equipment to treat Covid patients. We are also sending £40,000 to Christian Fellowship Hospital in Oddanchatram for them to purchase a larger oxygen generator to supply their 300 bedded hospital. This hospital serves the poor, vulnerable and marginalised in Southern Tamil Nadu and has close links with CMC.

Please pray for CMC and all the mission hospitals mentioned above. Pray that God would protect and sustain the staff, for wisdom for the hospital administrations to know how best to use their resources and for adequate oxygen supplies.

Thank you once again for your generosity.

WINDOW PADLOCKS

Does anybody **know** where the keys for the padlocks on the rear window grills of the church hall are kept? If so **please let Stephen or Colin know**.

We hope to have the windows repainted at some point in the near future and we need to be able to remove the window grills to allow us to do this. We have tried most logical places, but if anybody actually **knows** where they are this would help us.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you to all who contributed to our appeal for Christian Medical College in Vellore, South India. I'm delighted to report that we raised a magnificent total of £850.65. Thanks to all who gave so generously. The letter of thanks from CMC Vellore is on the previous page and the full text is on display on the noticeboard in church.

Our next project is the church hall. We have had squirrels in the roof space again – little over two years since our last invasion! They managed to make a hole in the eaves at the south end of the roof and have probably made a nest above the suspended ceiling. We have arranged for our roofing contractor to repair the hole, and booked the Council's pest control department to trap any squirrels in the roof space and remove them. These two jobs must be done at the same time. If you block the hole but don't trap the squirrels, then they either create another hole to get out or die up there – neither of which is ideal. If the Council trap the squirrels but we don't block the hole, more squirrels will get in. We have booked this for during the school holidays when the hall will be empty to allow the work to be done without disturbing the Reindeer Playgroup and the After School Club.

While surveying the roof for the squirrel hole we noticed that the outside paintwork is in serious need of work, including the eaves of the roof, the wooden facings and the windows and gutters. It has also been noted that the interior paintwork in the hall is in serious need of refreshing and that the ceiling tiles have become badly stained by our rodent invaders.

We are currently getting quotations from local contractors for doing this work – possibly as two different projects. It is crucial that we keep the hall in good order since we rely heavily on rental income to supplement our finances.

We hope that we may be able to apply for a grant from the Diocesan Recovery and Renewal Fund to cover some of the costs of this refurbishment. This fund has money available to help churches in the Diocese get back on their feet following the Covid-19 pandemic. We have lost over £10,000 in rental income over the past 15 months during the various lockdowns which is a large proportion of our budget. We have also been unable to hold our normal fundraising activities (e.g. the Christmas Fair, Margaret and Willie Deas's Bridge Afternoon and the Summer Fete). Any amount we can claim from the diocesan fund will be of enormous help to us so please pray that they will look kindly on our application.

Colin Mair

GARDEN DAY

PROVISIONAL DATE 17th JULY

We hope to have a **Garden Day**, probably on Saturday 17th July, when you are invited to come and help tidy up the grounds around the church, with different tasks available for different abilities and, we hope, some refreshments after the hard work! Members of the congregation do a great job with the garden behind the hall, the flower beds and tending the lawns but there are still tasks that they are not able to do such as weeding the edges of the paths. This is still in the planning stage but we will let you know when the date is confirmed.

NEWS FROM THE REINDEER PLAYGROUP

Reindeer Playgroup is one of the church's partner organisations. It meets in the church hall Tuesday to Friday mornings in term time and was originally set up by members of the church to provide affordable childcare in our local area. I am currently the Chair of the Playgroup Committee, though I'm stepping down in September to focus on other things, including the new family services that we are currently planning (more on those another time!). There are two pieces of news from the playgroup that I want to share with you: our new Holy Cross representative and a sponsored walk.

New Holy Cross Rep

As Stephen announced during the notices a few weeks ago, Zoe Kirkpatrick has joined the Reindeer Playgroup Committee as the Church Rep. Most of you will know Zoe already. If not, you can spot her in the children's corner with me on a Sunday. Her daughter Emilia is almost the same age as Bess and the two of them spend a lot of time together – at church, at our parent and toddler dance class, and playing in our gardens or at Lauriston Castle. They're both learning to pray, one ending her prayers with AAAAAAAA-men and the other with a-NOOOO!

Zoe's role in the Playgroup Committee has three main strands: to identify opportunities to develop the relationship between Holy Cross Church and Reindeer Playgroup; to work with the committee on joint fundraising opportunities; and to liaise between the committee and the church's 'hall team' (currently Colin Mair, Lynn Kirk and Jane Allen). I can say with both my Reindeer and Holy Cross hats on that I'm delighted that Zoe has taken on this role – she's the perfect candidate! As a mum, Zoe is (like me) learning every day about life with a toddler and about how we can raise our daughters as Christians, as members of a church community. She is

committed to her faith and passionate about the ‘early years’ (i.e. the first years of a child’s life, particularly ages 0–3). From September she will be studying for an HNC in Childhood Practice with the intention of going on to work in the early years sector, probably in a nursery setting. Zoe will also be helping me to run the new family services at Holy Cross.

Please do have a chat with Zoe if you’d like to know more about her role, or have any suggestions about how Reindeer Playgroup and our church might work together and support one another. Once I finish as Chair, Zoe will keep us all updated on what’s happening at the playgroup.

I’d also like to thank Kate Corliss, who recently finished her time as Church Rep. Kate was on the committee during an odd time. There were many changes to deal with due to Covid, two new members of staff started work in 2020, and in September every person on the committee changed apart from Kate! Kate’s calm and friendly presence at meetings was very much appreciated.

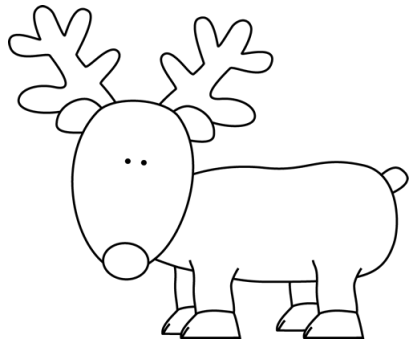
Sponsored Walk

Throughout July the Reindeer families are going to be doing a sponsored walk: a ‘Reindeer Ramble’. It will be a half-mile walk/toddle around Davidson’s Mains Park (with a longer version for longer legs) which families can complete any time in the month. We’ll keep people updated with our progress on our Facebook page ([@reindeerplaygroup](#)) and via the notices at church. At the end of the month we will add up all of our half miles and see how far we’ve rambled! Bess, Stephen and I will be taking part, as will Zoe and Emilia. If anyone would like to sponsor us, please let me know. Or you might know some small people who want to join in and help us to raise some money – they’d be very welcome. The funds will go to the playgroup. Like many other small charities, we have had a difficult 18 months with lockdown closures and furlough. We need to raise more money to keep Reindeer running. Any support is very welcome – including telling people about our sponsored walk, and sharing the posts if you’re on Facebook.

And finally...

Does anyone know why we are called Reindeer Playgroup? We have no idea!

Izzy Armstrong-Holmes



OUR CHURCH GARDEN

I am lucky enough to have a glass panelled balcony at my flat on which, just now, there is an abundance of flowering plants. Getting them into pots and window boxes is rather labour intensive, mostly because there's not much room to move. So I spread plastic sheeting on the living room carpet and get to work. No matter how hard I try, it's a messy business but definitely worth it. However, much as I love this little south-facing suntrap, it's not a garden!

Several months after I started attending services at Holy Cross, I decided to take the plunge and go for coffee in the hall. It was at this point I realised that the hall looked out onto a garden which, I was informed, had been transformed from a virtual wilderness by someone named Anne. I was impressed as I looked out on this large space, but was also struck by the amount of weeds, and thought that this Anne person could use some help.

And so it was that I set to work weeding. I will always remember the time I mistook the South African lilies for weeds and pulled up dozens of them (looked like long grass to me!), but I was soon taught the difference and replanted my 'error'! Thankfully they bloomed and seemed to have suffered no ill effects from having been tossed, albeit temporarily, into the weed bucket.

Before long I was helping Anne to plant potatoes (about which I knew nothing), make climbing frames for the sweet peas, set poles for the runner beans and erect nets to keep the birds off the redcurrants, and learning the difference between leaf mould and compost (the former involves fungal breakdown, the latter involves bacterial breakdown, if you're interested).

Two years ago Anne and I decided that the bed of old rose bushes was achieving nothing and could be put to better use. What we didn't realise was the depth and size of their roots! We dug and we pulled and we dug some more, eventually resorting to hacking at the particularly stubborn ones, as there seemed no other solution. We then set about tackling the weeds and placing some stepping stones on the bed to add a bit of interest. Wanting to be economical, we optimistically planted seeds and waited for the day when they would burst forth. Well most of them evidently decided they'd rather be in warmer climes, so the reward for our efforts was disappointment. Established plants were clearly the way forward. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation we were able to purchase a good variety of hardy perennials, most of which flourished, especially the bright orange calendula. In fact we made a trip to Hopetoun on a sunny day earlier this month, and bought seven new plants which so far seem to be doing well.

You may have noticed that the garden is looking really good of late, thanks not only to Anne's commitment but also to Vaughan's. He, like Anne, is in the garden three or four times a week and has been invaluable in many ways, but especially in digging and preparing all the vegetable beds.

Thanks also to Peggy who's another regular! And last but not least, Ian Elvin has planted new trees, pruned shaggy ones and tends the Garden of Remembrance. He also, assisted by Vaughan, mows all the lawns.

I would urge you to have a wander round maybe after the Sunday service, coffee in hand, to see for yourselves the progress that's been made. You may even think of lending a hand if you have a bit of free time and a desire to experience its peaceful, tranquil atmosphere.

In the meantime I leave you with this poem, which I came across the other day and thought quite appropriate:

*If no eye were to see you
Would your beauty be as keen?
Would your colour still have purpose
Were it evermore unseen?

Were no honey bees to hover
Or nose sniff your perfume
Would you then, in all your glory
Find reason yet to bloom?*

Sarah Millée



CURSILLO IN SCOTLAND

What's this Cursillo thing anyway?

Many of you may have heard me, or Jean Williams, talking about Cursillo recently or in the past and wondered what it is all about. So here is a wee summary.

Cursillo is a world-wide movement, aiming to encourage Christians to support each other on their journey of faith. It has its own method for doing this and that is what makes it different. Here in Scotland, it is used by the Episcopal Church.

Cursillo started in Spain, which is why it has such a strange name. (It is pronounced Cur-see-yo.) It just means 'short course'. Most people are

introduced to Cursillo by attending a weekend residential course. The course involves lay and clergy working together in a Christian community. There is daily worship including a Eucharist, music, and talks given by clergy and lay people working together. It focuses on the elements of the Cursillo method which are Prayer, Study and Action. In other words, helping us to strengthen our relationship with Jesus and learning about him; studying the world through scripture but also looking at the places around us for situations where we can perhaps make his presence more obvious; doing God's work in the world. The Cursillo weekend is a light-hearted and a joyful time, with lots of singing and laughter and occasional tears amongst the teaching. It is not a retreat. The fellowship, the sharing of meals and worship are central to the whole.

Cursillo starts with a weekend course but continues afterwards with group support. We are encouraged to find a group of three or four Cursillo people to meet with regularly to pray and to support each other in our daily lives. We encourage each other, we ask how things are going, we help when needed. Some groups have members who all belong to the same congregation, others from different ones.

As well as these small groups we also meet on a monthly basis as a larger regional group. Ours is based in Edinburgh and the Lothians. People of all ages, both lay and clergy, take part. We come from a variety of church backgrounds – high, low, evangelical. These meetings last around 60–90 minutes and involve prayer and music, but the central focus is on one member telling a little about what they have been doing to bring Christ into a situation. People talk about all sorts of things: volunteering for the Care Van; setting up a support team within church for a particular need; setting up a church garden; delivering leaflets for Christian Aid; talking to people in a dementia group; doing coffee after church; being available in their workplaces to support colleagues; setting up a tea station at General Synod!

The lay talk lasts around 10 minutes and is responded to firstly by other members in a supportive way and then by a member of the clergy who helps to put what has been said into a Gospel setting. The aim is to encourage listeners to see if they could transfer what they have heard into their own setting in some way. Then of course (in normal times) we share tea, coffee and home baking.

So that is Cursillo in summary. What has made it so special that I have been involved since 1989? I have made friends all over Scotland (in the Episcopal Church we are a Provincial group) and the UK. I have experienced loving, supportive fellowship in a way that literally transformed my life. I have met

and got to know people from widely different church backgrounds and to experience different worship styles – not all suit me, but I can experience them. I have opportunities to sing. I have learned about prayer, about the bible through my study, about how God is present in my life in everything that I do. In particular, I have learned that God loves and values me! That knowledge is transforming; and I hope that the one thing which I am able to do is to pass that knowledge on to those I come across in my day-to-day life.

I am currently the Scottish President and am happy to tell you more about it, as is Jean – she too is a long-time member. Cursillo may not be for everyone, but for some it is just right! Taste and see as they say!

Sally Mair

HOLY CROSS KALENDAR and READINGS – JULY 2021

Thursday 1st July – Serf, Bishop, c.500

The Apostle of Fife whose cult is centred at Culross. Little is known about his life but a wild collection of legends clustered around his memory, such as that he killed a dragon at Dunning in Strathnairn.

Saturday 3rd July – Thomas the Apostle

St Thomas is known as ‘doubting Thomas’ but he also proclaimed that wonderful act of faith in Christ’s divinity ‘my Lord and my God’ (John 20:28). He is said to have preached in India and to be the founder of churches there, certainly King Alfred of Wessex sent alms to St Peter at Rome and St Thomas in India. When the Portuguese came to India in 1522 they found his tomb at Mylapore.

Collect: Almighty and eternal God, who, for the firmer foundation of our faith, allowed your Holy Apostle St Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son till word and sight convinced him: grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe and so confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and our God; through the same Christ our Lord, Amen.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – 4th July – Eucharist 10.30

Collect: Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Readings: Ezekiel 2.1-5 Psalm 123 2 Corinthians 12.2-10 Mark 6.1-13

Tuesday 6th July – Palladius, Bishop, 450

A deacon from Auxerre, in 431 he was sent by Pope Celestine to establish the Church among the Irish and he ministered in County Wicklow. His mission has been overshadowed by the later ministry of St Patrick. After working in Ireland he is said to have travelled to Scotland and died at Fordoun in Aberdeenshire where the church and an adjacent holy well are dedicated to him.

Wednesday 7th July – Boisil, Prior of Melrose, 642 – Eucharist 10.30

Readings: Genesis 41.55-57;42.5-7a,17-24a Psalm 33.1-4,18-22 Matt.10.1-7

A monk of the old Northumbrian monastery of Melrose, he was famous for his wisdom and gift of prophecy and received St Cuthbert into the community. He died of plague, which Cuthbert also caught but survived as Boisil had prophesied. St Boswells is named after him and a fragment of his 8th century shrine can be seen at Jedburgh.

Thursday 8th July – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – 11th July – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Collect: Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding; pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Readings: Amos 7.7-15 Psalm 85.8-13 Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 6.14-29

Monday 12th July – Drostan of Deer

A Pictish monk who founded the Abbey of Deer in Aberdeenshire.

Wednesday 14th July – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Exodus 3.1-12 Psalm 103.1-7 Matthew 11.25-27

Thursday 15th July – St Bonaventure, Franciscan, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 1274 – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

The son of an Italian doctor, Bonaventure joined the Franciscans and became a theologian, emphasising the centrality of love and working for reconciliation with the Greek Orthodox and among the various groups of followers of Francis.

Friday 16th July – St Mary of Mount Carmel

The Episcopal Church at South Queensferry is dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and was the Church of a community of Carmelite friars founded in 1440. The Carmelite Order of hermits was founded on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land during the Crusades although it claims descent from the ‘sons of the prophets’ around Elijah. From the start it related its contemplative vocation to the Virgin Mary and it has produced many great teachers of the spiritual life such as Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Therese of Lisieux and Edith Stein. Carmel calls us to prayer.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – 18th July – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Collect: Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things; graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Readings: Jeremiah 23.1-6 Psalm 23 Ephesians 2.11-22 Mark 6.30-34,53-56

Tuesday 20th July – Bartolomé de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566

He was one of the early Spanish colonists in the West Indies but repented, freed his slaves, became a Dominican friar and spent his life fighting the oppression of the native population, writing A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies. He preached the gospel, opposed slavery and argued successfully against other theologians that the indigenous people should be regarded as human.

Wednesday 21st July – William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, 1833 –
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Exodus 16.1-5,9-15 Psalm 78.18-29 Matthew 13.1-9

An Anglican Evangelical politician whose faith informed his politics, he supported the foundation of the Church Mission Society and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). His main passion was the abolition of slavery and his work led to the Slavery Abolition Act 1833, which abolished slavery in most of the British Empire. Wilberforce died just three days after the Act was passed.

Thursday 22nd July – Mary Magdalene

Mary appears in the Gospels as a disciple of Jesus ‘out of whom he had cast seven devils’, who stood by his cross, went to anoint his body at the tomb and to whom the risen Christ appeared. She brought the good news of the resurrection to the Apostles and so is called ‘Apostle to the Apostles’ and her feast is of the same rank as an Apostle. Since the time of Gregory the Great she had been thought to be Martha’s sister and the sinner who anointed Christ’s feet (Luke 7:37), but this is now generally rejected. Legend says that she died at Ephesus or that she went to evangelise Provence with Lazarus and Martha and then lived there as a hermit.

Collect: Almighty God, your Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be the first witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal our infirmity, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; through the same Christ our Lord, Amen.

Friday 23rd July – Bridget of Sweden, Abbess, 1373

A Swedish noblewoman, Bridget was married at the age of 14 and later became Lady in Waiting at the court of King Magnus II. She received many visions from God and, when her husband died, founded a double monastery for monks and nuns at Vadstena. She then went on long pilgrimages and intervened in politics, calling the Pope to return to Rome, working for peace between France and England and trying to stop a crusade against the pagans of the Baltic. Her Order, the Bridgettines, still exists.

Saturday 24th July – Robert Leighton Bishop, 1684

Principal of Edinburgh University, Bishop of Dunblane and then Archbishop of Glasgow, he worked hard to reconcile Episcopalians and moderate Presbyterians in a time of inter-religious strife.

SUNDAY: ST JAMES, APOSTLE – 25th July – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

This is James the Great, son of Zebedee, not the other Apostle James the Less, son of Alphaeus, nor James the brother of the Lord. With Peter and John he was one of Jesus' inner circle of Apostles, being present at the Transfiguration, and he was the first of the Apostles to die for Christ (Acts 12:2). He was the heavenly patron of the reconquest of Spain from the Muslims and his shrine and relics at Compostela are the destination of the Camino pilgrimage routes.

Collect: Merciful God, your Holy Apostle St James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world and the flesh, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Readings: Acts 11.27-12.2(3) Psalm 126 2 Corinthians 4:7-15 Matt. 20.20-28

Monday 26th July – Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A tradition going back to the second century gives these names to Mary's parents and there are various legends about them. Anne is often shown teaching Mary to read and they are patron saints of parents.

Tuesday 27th July – John Comper of Aberdeen, Priest, 1903

Comper was a priest who worked in the slums of Aberdeen, brought the first Anglican nuns to Scotland, founding the Society of St Margaret in Aberdeen, and established St Margaret's in the Gallowgate. He was the father of the architect Sir Ninian Comper whose influence can be seen in our East Window, made by one of his pupils.

Wednesday 28th July – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Exodus 34.29-35 Psalm 99 Matthew 13.44-46

Thursday 29th July – Martha, Mary and Lazarus

The sisters and brother who welcomed Jesus to their house at Bethany, Luke 10:38-42. Jesus later raised Lazarus from the dead, John 11:1-44. Mary is remembered on this day as the Church now realises she is not Mary Magdalene, who was commemorated last week.

Friday 30th July – Silas, Companion of Paul

Silas was chosen to take a letter from the Council of Jerusalem to the Church in Antioch (Acts 15) and was a companion of Paul on his missionary journeys.

Saturday 31st July – Ignatius of Loyola, Priest and Religious, 1556

A Basque nobleman and soldier, he was converted while recovering from a wound and founded the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits, with a number of companions. The Jesuits grew in numbers and ran missions and founded schools and universities all over the world. His Spiritual Exercises have formed many, in many churches, in Ignatian spirituality.

READINGS – AUGUST

The August Kalendar will appear in the e-news.

Sunday 1st August – Pentecost 10

Exodus 16.2-4,9-15 Psalm 78.23-29 Ephesians 4.1-16 John 6.24-35

Wednesday 4th August: Numbers 13.1-2,25-14.1,26-35 Psalm 106.6-14,21-23
Matthew 15.21-28

Sunday 8th August – Pentecost 11

1 Kings 19.4-8 Psalm 34.1-8 Ephesians 4.25-5.2 John 6.35,41-51

Wednesday 11th August: Deuteronomy 34.1-12 Psalm 66.1-8 Matt. 18.15-20

Sunday 15th August – Mary, Mother of God (The Assumption)

Revelation 11:19-12:6 Psalm 45:11-18 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 1:46-55

Wednesday 18th August: Judges 9.6-15 Psalm 21.1-6 Matthew 20.1-16a

Sunday 22nd August – Pentecost 13

Joshua 24.1-2a,14-18 Psalm 34.15-22 Ephesians 6.10-20 John 6.56-69

Wednesday 25th August: 1 Thessalonians 2.9-13 Psalm 126 Matt. 23.27-32

Sunday 29th August – Pentecost 14

Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9 Psalm 15 James 1.17-27 Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23

Wednesday 1st September: Colossians 1.1-8 Psalm 34.9-22 Luke 4.38-44

Sunday 5th September – Pentecost 15

Isaiah 35.4-7a Psalm 146 James 2.1-17 Mark 7.24-37

WORSHIP

We expect further lifting of restrictions later in the year and at present all services in the church follow the precautions in our coronavirus plan and refreshments are usually available after the service.

Sunday and 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.

Worship Videos: The Scottish Episcopal Church is continuing to produce Sunday video services for adults and children. These are put out at 8 a.m. on Sundays and can be seen on the Scottish Episcopal Church YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/c/TheScottishEpiscopalChurch. Our own Holy Cross videos from lockdown are still on our YouTube channel, search for 'YouTube Holy Cross Church Edinburgh'.