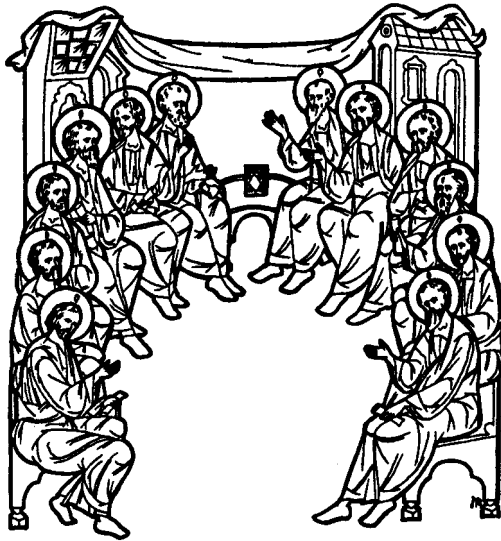


Church of the Holy Cross

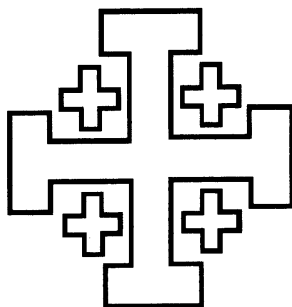
DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

JUNE 2020



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Rector	The Revd Dr Stephen Holmes 18 Barnton Gardens, EH4 6AF Tel: 629 1966 and 07584 091870 Email: rector.hce@gmail.com Day off: Monday
Lay Representative	Mr Andrew Vass 24 Corbiehill Place, EH4 5AY Tel: 312 6879
Vestry Secretary	Mrs Nicole Elvin 11/13 Meggetland Square, EH14 1XR Tel: 443 2782
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Treasurer	Mr Colin Mair 10 Hillhouse Road, EH4 2AG Tel: 332 9868

Copy date for the July/August magazine is 19th June.
All material should reach the Editor by then.

Magazine Editor	Mrs Margaret Deas 20 Silverknowes Court, EH4 5NR margaretanndeas@btinternet.com Tel: 336 1301
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Website: www.holycrossedinburgh.org
Twitter: [@HolyCrossEdin](https://twitter.com/HolyCrossEdin) **Facebook:** Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains
YouTube: [Holy Cross Church Edinburgh](https://www.youtube.com/HolyCrossChurchEdinburgh)

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FROM THE RECTOR

This is my third magazine editorial in lockdown and, just as my six-month old daughter has spent more time in the womb than in the world, so I have spent more time as Rector of Holy Cross not seeing the congregation than physically being with you.

Even so, there are a lot of positive things going on. Our life of worship is continuing, dispersed, on Zoom, with the aid of video and sharing the worship of our Bishops and other communities online. You have seen the Rector and his wife singing in their kitchen and their daughter blowing a raspberry. We are keeping in touch by our weekly e-news, emails and phone calls. Fundraising and preparation for our new heating system is advancing, led by a skilled team from the congregation, and is revealing impressive generosity not only from Holy Cross people but from our neighbours who value having our wee church in their midst. Above all there are all the acts of kindness that are going on, I hear of many when I speak with you and read of many others in our city and beyond.

On the other hand there is sadness, fear, pain and death in this crisis – not least because it is caused by a hidden and deadly virus, a new plague or pestilence. I have heard of trouble in families, an increase of abuse and people living with great fear. Our own Helen Allan died recently – we hold her, Jane and all the family in our prayers – and various members of our congregation have been or are in hospital. In addition to this many, including some at Holy Cross, have their income or job in danger and there is fear of the coming economic recession. Many of us are missing our church and missing Holy Communion with deep pain.

Our personal response to the crisis varies widely. Some are missing family and social interaction whereas others are really enjoying the space and freedom that lockdown brings. These are not right or wrong, they are just the way God and our experiences have made us. Talking with other clergy, it seems that we, along with others who continue to work, are probably busier than usual, working in new ways and trying to hold things together without the usual props.

Whatever our situation, the lockdown is an occasion for grace. Jesus sought time alone to pray and be with his Father. Christians have always followed him in this and I was pleased, looking through old Holy Cross magazines, to see the excitement in the congregation when Joan, Sylvia and others made friends with Mother Mary Agnes of the Society of Our Lady of the Isles when she began her solitary hermit life in Shetland in the 1980s. Many of you will know how Mother Mary Agnes was important in our coming to Holy Cross.

Joining with other local churches in the 'Thy Kingdom Come' Novena or wave of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost, which is about to begin as I write this, is a way of helping us deepen our connection with God, as is using the daily Bible readings in our weekly e-news. The crisis is helping us learn new skills, compassion, contemplation and deeper prayer, but also the enjoyment of solitude. Another modern hermit, the novelist and writer Sara Maitland recently wrote in the *Guardian*:

'What if, instead of a huge disadvantage, being alone were framed as an opportunity for developing the self? Solitude seems to be more or less a necessity for creativity, for instance, whether it is drawing, painting, writing, learning an instrument, cooking or any other kind of creative activity. It is also very useful for anyone wanting to deepen their spirituality – this is why both Christians and Buddhists encourage retreats: periods of chosen isolation and usually silence. I believe that in order to see well, and particularly to see wild nature, you need to be comfortable within your own solitude. Almost all good field naturalists would agree that both the silence and the patience needed are enhanced when you walk or sit by yourself. We know too that practised solitude increases self-knowledge and independence. And this makes us less vulnerable to emotional abuse and more able to remove ourselves from such situations. And this in itself may well make us a better, because less needy, friend when we do engage...

Spending time alone is in fact spending time with the person you know best of all and who knows you better than anyone else does. Solitude deepens self-knowledge. Interestingly, the words *solitude* and *loneliness* ought to have similar meanings: *solo* and *alone* do after all. But faced with courage and determination they do not. Loneliness is a negative, sad feeling. Solitude on the other hand is bliss. And practice makes perfect. So practise.'

So, let us live with Jesus as a community of solitude and communion, thanking him for the strange graces of this time. May God bless you and yours, ask if you need anything, and, as before, I end with Jesus' words which we used on our last Sunday together at Holy Cross, 'love your neighbour and do not be afraid'. Keep safe and may we meet again soon!

With love in Christ,

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral:

Helen Allan on 22nd May

Helen's funeral was private because of Covid-19 restrictions, but the cortege travelled from Strachan House to the Crematorium via Holy Cross and Main Street. Members of Holy Cross, along with neighbours from Vivian Terrace and other friends, lined the route.

The family plan to hold a memorial service in Holy Cross when this becomes possible.

As a congregation we had the immense good fortune to share the warmth and friendliness of Helen's nature. Over so many years she would be with us to worship and be of such willing help for our social life. She will be much missed.

If you have memories of Helen to share, please let the Editor know so that we can include them in next month's magazine.

Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.

JULY/AUGUST MAGAZINE

Combining the monthly magazine with the Rector's weekly e-news was not a complete success, so we are back to normal, though still online only.

Remember that the next magazine will be the combined July/August edition. Please let me have any material by 19th June.

Margaret Deas

PASTORAL TEAM

If anyone needs help while self-isolating or shielding, please contact the Rector or one of our pastoral team:

Alan Kirkpatrick (07891 237940 or muttley.1@blueyonder.co.uk)

Helen Smith (07917 695491 or Helgillard@yahoo.com)

Angela Gardner (07703 443291 or angela.gardner@ajenterprises.co.uk)

Information about local groups that you can help during this crisis can be found here:

Volunteer Edinburgh: www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/volunteer/covid-19

EVOC: www.evoc.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am delighted to report that we have had an outstandingly generous response to our appeal for donations to the Central Heating Fund. We have to date received over £13,000 in donations (with a further £1,000 in Gift Aid to come), mainly from members of the congregation, but also from members of the public via our website. Some of the comments show the local feelings about the church: 'A beautiful church, good luck with the appeal' and 'Happy to support such an important part of our community'. Thanks again to all of you who have supported the church with your generous donations.

We have also received welcome news that the Scottish Churches Trust has awarded us a grant of £3,000 towards the central heating. We have several other grant applications in the pipeline and are hopeful that we will be successful with some of them. A further piece of good news came from an unlikely source. We always believed that there was asbestos lagging on the pipes in the basement. We therefore commissioned an asbestos surveyor to check the extent of this – it would need to be carefully removed before work on the central heating could begin. We received the survey report last week and, to our surprise and delight, the report says that there is no asbestos at all in the church (or the hall). This means we will save the cost of specialist work to remove it (around £4,000) and the time to carry out the work. All of this makes me confident that we can proceed with the work relatively soon and have a warm church when the weather starts getting cooler again in the autumn.

For anyone still wanting to set up standing orders or make online payments, here is a reminder of the church bank details:

Royal Bank of Scotland, Corstorphine Branch
Sort Code 83 18 47
Account Number 00170278
Account Name: Church of the Holy Cross

If you don't have access to online banking then you can also make a donation to Holy Cross by sending a cheque to me or by paying via the Virgin Money Giving button on our website: www.holycrossedinburgh.org/?page_id=279

Colin Mair May 2020

SILVER SOCKS

Please don't forget your little sock during lockdown! If you don't have cash available it will survive on IOUs (provided you remember to redeem them!).

NEW BOILER AND HEATING SYSTEM PROPOSALS COST IMPLICATIONS as at 20.05.20

1. New boiler:	£15,000 (a)
2. New system of radiators and associated pipework etc.:	£20,000 (a)
3. Professional fees: (13% of £35.0k)	£4,500 (a)
4. Removal of suspected asbestos: (now doubtful)	£2,937 (b)
5. Asbestos survey: (paid)	£540 (c)
6. Initial survey report: (paid)	<u>£250</u> (a)
Total excluding VAT:	£43,227
+ VAT: @ 20%	<u>£8,645</u> (d)
Aggregate:	<u>£51,872</u>

Footnotes:

(a) per Andrew MacOwan – Consulting Engineer – Jan. 2020

(b) per quote from Enviraz 27.03.20

(c) Nathan Barnett of Abate – asbestos surveyors

(d) VAT may be recoverable under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme – repayment of VAT, operated by the Dept. of Culture Media & Sport, but there can be no guarantee of this.

Ian Elvin

WORDSEARCH

Find these words in the grid.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| JESUS | TOGETHER |
| MIRACLES | SIGNS |
| DOORS | LIFE |
| TOUCHED | THOMAS |
| DOUBTING | RECORDED |
| SHOWED | BELIEVED |
| HANDS | DISCIPLES |
| SIDE | LOCKED |

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Y J M N P S M B J D J Y D J S
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W X R K N Y G X P O F O M E D
X M A D V Y G E A X C O R E H
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R P T V S V D O U B T I N G B
    
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from Sermons4kids.com

MY FAMILY AND HOLY CROSS



To set the scene, my grandfather, Frank Stuart Silver, and his wife, Alice, purchased The Old Parsonage (now 35 East Barnton Avenue) in 1909 for £4,000 and moved in with their two children, Alistair and Sheila. The house had been built and purchased by the church in 1901 for its first Rector, the Revd Alfred Griffiths, who I believe lived there alone. Within eight years it was clear the church was unable to support him or the maintenance of the house so it was then put up for sale. A new rectory was found for him further down East Barnton Avenue at number 30, still a pretty big house.

It was during this period that my father, Alistair Silver, was sent to Cargilfield School as a boarder, aged eight. In his later years he admitted that bullying was a constant threat and beatings with the cane for poor work was a normal weekly occurrence.

Boys from Cargilfield School in their kilts and glengarry hats walked to and from church every Sunday led by the headmaster, Mr Thomas. I remember the boys in the 1960s walking past The Old Parsonage in crocodile formation, but my father told me that he was doing the exact same thing when he was an eight year-old boy at Cargilfield in 1909. He used to say that it was difficult to pass his home every Sunday without feeling horribly homesick.

My grandfather, Frank, was involved in raising funds for the building of the new church after the 'tin tabernacle' fell into disrepair. The old tabernacle was dismantled, shortened and reassembled as an Episcopal church in Prestonpans. But before that, it was used as a temporary church hall until a new one was built on the existing site. This one burnt to the ground and was replaced by the current one.

In 1916, aged 55, Frank decided to join the YMCA and was posted to Poperinghe in Flanders. He was appointed a Hut Leader and was active in providing spiritual care to the soldiers coming up from the trenches at the Front. He donned a dog collar (although he was never ordained) and took Sunday services, with hymn singing being an important part. At other times, he would be seen serving cocoa to the troops from the hut counter.

My church memories from the 1950s

The church was always cold and when the coal-fired boiler broke down in 1950, or thereabouts, it was replaced eventually by an oil-fired system, oil being the cheapest alternative at the time. Not long after, a further problem arose when the pipes burst and the boiler room was flooded.

In spite of all the boiler problems, as a family we appear to have always got to Matins especially early so that we could be assured of a seat near the pipes.

Every service was announced by the vigorous ringing of the single church bell outside the vestry for the stipulated time (which I think was ten minutes). Although latterly the bell rope was placed within the vestry, in the 1950s it was outside and the ringer had to be prepared for all weathers.

As a youngster, summer time and particularly the Davidson's Mains Gala was an occasion to look forward to. For Holy Cross, it was a bonanza. The church made sure it held its annual fete on the same day and as most of the village turned out, the passing crowds would drop in and pay handsomely for the tombola, cakes, pop bottles and a Punch & Judy show. I also remember throwing rings onto hoops to hopefully win a goldfish, which I did, but the poor fish only lasted 24 hours. A further attraction to bring in the punters was the presence of the Lothian & Borders Police Pipe Band.

East Barnton Avenue was originally an unmade rubble road before tarmac was laid in the 1960s. The short walk downhill to church was mandatory for our family on most Sundays and it was usually Matins we went for. Sunday roast was also mandatory and put in the oven at a low heat to be just perfect on our return. Woe betide if the sermon overran as certainly on one occasion we had a burnt offering for lunch. A special treat, usually near Christmas, was a visit to St John's to hear the choir.

My mother was a member of the Mothers' Union and always seemed to be involved in raising money for good causes and funds for the church. With the other ladies, she would usually attend a Eucharist service on a Wednesday morning. She took turns in providing flowers for the church, but the annual Thanksgiving Day service was reserved for her. Fortunately, the garden of The Old Parsonage was able to provide all the flowers required to put on a splendid display and dahlias and chrysanthemums were top of the list. I remember volunteering to disbud the dahlias to produce the largest flowers possible.

Since my last appearance in church in the 1970s, after which I spent many years in Malawi and latterly in Farnham and up here in Kirknewton, a couple of changes are interesting. First of all, the lovely organ in the south transept

has disappeared and secondly, the balcony in the north transept has been removed.

I can only presume that the faithful organ, beautifully played by the late Mary Harrison MBE, was due for retirement and the cost to restore prohibitive.

In the case of the balcony, I remember helping to raise funds for it to be constructed and cater for the boys of Cargilfield School as at that time the congregation fully filled the body of the church. How times have changed and I suppose its demise was due to the changed intake of pupils at Cargilfield, there being no boarders to march down for Sunday Matins.

Finally, without appearing boastful, I must pay tribute to my grandfather for his work in Holy Cross, and the east window, erected in his memory by his brother-in-law, George Currie, bears witness to that.

The choir stalls were also gifted to the church by my grandfather and I'm fairly sure that the green hymn books were given by my parents.

I look forward to re-establishing my contact with Holy Cross after so many years of absence and bearing in mind the current situation with the virus, I'll be back from time to time to worship once the doors are open again.

Ian Silver

READING BIBLICAL LITERATURE: GENESIS TO REVELATION by Craig Koester

Review by Andrew Vass

Dr Koester has written major commentaries on Hebrews and Revelation, interweaving the study of biblical texts with their impact on art, literature and music. What I liked about his lectures is his capacity to capture story and meaning within a philosophical style.

At the end of the Genesis story he tells us, 'The story ends when people know the difference between good and evil. Yet God recognizes that knowing what is good does not mean doing what is good'. It's a puzzle!

But why can the story not end until we solve this puzzle? Proverbs helps. Some of the Proverbs warn about the problem of arrogance. What is the answer? 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' we are told. Knowledge and wisdom must always be sought. Knowledge defeats ignorance. If reconciliation between God and Israel is the goal, what would prevent that from happening? For Jeremiah, a major problem is that people

are living with the illusion that nothing is wrong and their position is secure. Things are always wrong. Some say, if it's not broke don't fix it. That's wrong – it's always broke. We need realism. Isaiah offers a message of hope that is couched in brutal realism. Isaiah tells King Ahaz not to take any rash action and things will work out.

Luke continues the story of how those who don't get the picture, don't find spiritual happiness. His theme is reversal – where the high and mighty are moved to the periphery, the lowly are brought to the centre – the message is, don't be high and mighty!

Koester's Paul carries on the theme of the focus of biblical narrative being philosophical. Paul invokes the many forms of religious expression at Athens as evidence of that basic human search for God. Paul quotes the Greek poet Aratus, who called human beings God's 'offspring'. 'Sin is a relationship that has gone wrong' he tells us. The cross conveys the extremity of divine love – God is refusing to let even the worst setbacks get in the way of His attempt to renew relating. What can we do? Have faith. Faith is a relationship of trust and love. Trust that Christ is the law because love itself includes an element of restraint.

Koester is suggesting that Paul's most significant words are the ones he shares in dialogue with the Greek philosophers. These are essentials of the faith – words that can reach the gentiles today. Well, is Koester right? Is the constant search for wisdom and knowledge an essential for us? I am reminded of Koester's focus on Psalm 71 in which King David has a sudden realisation that envy lies underneath his curious behaviours. It's not easy to spot envy, I can tell you! The moral of that story is that we have to self-reflect. And if I could tell you why, I wouldn't need to bother. Sorry!

S E C MISSION ASSOCIATION

A joint Coffee Morning with Mothers' Union planned for April had to be cancelled, and we shall miss our usual summer meeting at Penicuik.



The spring issue of the Links magazine arrived just as lockdown began. Copies will be in church as soon as we are allowed back. If you would like yours sooner, please get in touch.

Meanwhile, the work continues. Any donations would be gratefully received.

Margaret Deas

WORSHIP

Eucharist will be celebrated for your intentions on Sundays at Holy Cross and Wednesdays at the church or rectory at 10.30 a.m.. Please join me in spirit then. Whenever I celebrate in the church I'll ring the bell.

A video of each Sunday's Eucharist should appear, when possible, on our Facebook page at 10 a.m. and will be available on the Holy Cross YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCBIGcZmVqp_sfgYon3WU28w/videos

On Thursdays at 5 p.m. we meet online on Zoom to say Evening Prayer. All the words are provided. If you want to join us email me on rector.hce@gmail.com and I will send you an invitation which will enable you to join in on your computer (it needs to have a camera), tablet or smartphone. It is easy to join us!

The Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) Sunday Eucharist is broadcast each week on Sunday at 11 a.m. and may be viewed online on Facebook, YouTube and the SEC website: www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship

SUNDAY READINGS

7th June **TRINITY SUNDAY**
Genesis 1.1-2.4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13.11-13
Matthew 28.16-20

14th June **PENTECOST 2**
Exodus 19.2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5.1-8
Matthew 9.35-10.23

21st June **PENTECOST 3**
Jeremiah 20.7-13
Psalm 69.7-10,16-18
Romans 6.1b-11
Matthew 10.24-39

28th June **PENTECOST 4**
Jeremiah 28.5-9
Psalm 89.1-4,15-18
Romans 6.12-23
Matthew 10.40-42

5th July **PENTECOST 5**
Zechariah 9.9-12
Psalm 145.8-14
Romans 7.15-25a
Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

