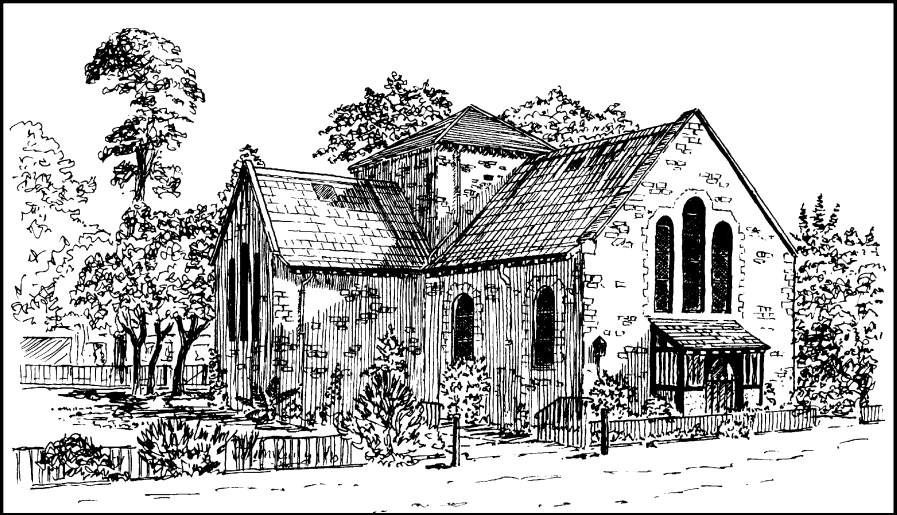


# Church of the Holy Cross

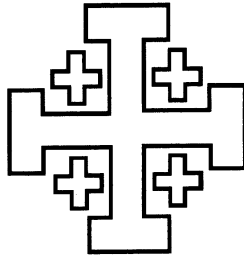
DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

NOVEMBER 2020



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



- Rector** The Revd Dr Stephen Holmes  
The Rectory, 18 Barnton Gardens, EH4 6AF  
Tel: 629 1966 and 07584 091870  
Email: [rector.hce@gmail.com](mailto:rector.hce@gmail.com)  
Day off: Monday
- Rector's Warden** Mr Alan Kirkpatrick  
39 Silverknowes Gardens, EH4 5ND Tel: 07513 516785
- People's Warden** Mrs Kate Hilton  
Flat 4, 26E Quality Street, EH4 5BS Tel: 336 1757
- Vestry Secretary** Mrs Nicole Elvin  
11/13 Meggetland Square, EH14 1XR Tel: 443 2782
- Treasurer** Mr Colin Mair  
10 Hillhouse Road, EH4 2AG Tel: 312 9868
- Gift Aid Secretary** Mr Tim Sale  
4/1 Brighthouse Park Crescent, EH4 6QS Tel: 336 5280

Copy date for the December/January magazine is 19th November.  
All material should reach the Editor by then.

- Magazine Editor** Mrs Margaret Deas  
20 Silverknowes Court, EH4 5NR Tel: 336 1301  
[margaretanndeas@btinternet.com](mailto:margaretanndeas@btinternet.com)

**Website:** [www.holycrossedinburgh.org](http://www.holycrossedinburgh.org)  
**Twitter:** [@HolyCrossEdin](https://twitter.com/HolyCrossEdin) **Facebook:** Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains  
**YouTube:** Holy Cross Church Edinburgh

*Registered Charity No SC015766*

## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

Bishop John has been very good in keeping in touch with his clergy during the pandemic and one comment he made recently has stuck with me. He noted that clergy, like members of our congregations, have reacted to the restrictions in different ways but that now, well over half a year since the first lockdown, some of us are beginning to feel things bite. It may be irritability, inability to sleep, a nagging fear, a background gloom or depression, whatever it is, if it is there, it is good to admit that it is there. Sometimes we just have to live with it; earlier generations have lived through worse, but the usual practices can help – exercise, keeping in contact with friends and family in whatever ways are possible, enjoying nature and prayer.

We do have good things to be thankful for, too. The church boilers are running and paid for, we can meet each week in church, our hall is back in use for regulated childcare, even if we can't sing we still have beautiful music in church (it was lovely to hear Katrine sing the other Sunday) and beautiful flowers, and we have celebrated together my daughter's baptism and, as I write, look forward to Emilia's baptism next week.

There is new life even as the leaves fall, and the leaves themselves as they decay give us a brilliant spectacle of colour. Nature seems to remind us that November is a month of remembrance. We have All Souls Day when we pray for our departed loved ones and Remembrance Sunday when we remember those who died to preserve our freedom. One distinctive thing about Scottish Episcopalianism is that we have always prayed for the dead. The Church of England was very suspicious of this until the First World War and it is not part of the practice of Protestant churches like the Church of Scotland. Although there is very little about it in the Bible, inscriptions show that it has been a general Christian practice since the earliest times and you can learn more about it in an article by my predecessor Douglas Kornahrens on our website. For me, praying for the departed is an expression of Christian love, we accompany them with our love as they continue on their journey into God who is the source of love.

One thing we have started is the Holy Cross Kalendar of Remembrance, a list of departed members of the congregation to enable us to remember them in prayer on the anniversary of their death or funeral. We hope to have it in the church in November and, if we have got dates wrong, please let us know – our records are not always reliable!

November also usually means the congregational Annual General Meeting. As I write our new constitution for Holy Cross has been approved unanimously by the second Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the congregation; it will be signed

by me and the Bishop and so be in force by the time this magazine is published. Ironically its provision for the AGM is not suitable for a pandemic so, as physical meetings are not recommended, we will have the AGM in a similar way to how we had the EGMs to confirm the constitution. Vestry and I are working on this and we will let you know when we have a definite plan. The AGM is a good opportunity to give thanks for the graces of the past year and look to the future. Thanks to God and your generosity, unlike many other churches we have not been hit by a financial crisis.

As an Episcopal church we do not stand alone but are part of a Diocese. The charges (our word for 'parish') of the Diocese of Edinburgh are grouped into Areas and meet in an Area Council. Our Area Council is Edinburgh Forth and consists of: us; St Mary of Mount Carmel, South Queensferry; St David's, Pilton; St James', Goldenacre and St Philip's, Beaverbank; St Ninian's, Comely Bank; St Paul's & St George's (Ps & Gs); St Vincent's, Stockbridge; and St James', Leith. It hasn't met for a very long time but I have been asked to chair a meeting on Zoom to discuss diocesan finances as we can't have a physical Diocesan Synod this autumn. Our Treasurer, Colin Mair, and Lay Representative, Andrew Vass, will also be at the meeting.

At the end of November is Advent, and Advent prepares us for Christmas. It will be a Christmas like no other as there will be no carols in church, pub or streets, no Christmas Fair, no parties and no Christingle service. This hasn't been said yet, but the spread of the virus makes it highly likely that present restrictions will be in place. I hope we can still gather in church and, even without the wonderful hymns, Advent is one of my favourite seasons. After discussions with the Vestry I intend to have two or more services of Advent and Christmas readings and music ('lessons and carols' without singing carols but with visiting musicians) before Christmas and to have a 9 a.m. celebration of Holy Communion using the traditional 1970 Scottish Liturgy as well as the usual Midnight Mass (this year at 11.30 p.m.) and the 10.30 a.m. Eucharist on Christmas Day. Having had a full church at the baptism, we will probably need to have a booking system for places at our Christmas services but I will try to make this as simple as possible.

Let us continue to pray for each other, for all who are working to keep us safe, and for all who are suffering loss and hardship. Let us work to be a community of love and prayer, united around Jesus in Word and Sacrament.

With love in Christ,

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

**ALL SOULS' REQUIEM**  
**MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER**  
**7.30 p.m.**

All Souls is the day when we remember our departed relatives and friends. As is our custom we will have a **Eucharist of Requiem at 7.30 p.m.** in the church and the departed will be prayed for by name. Weather permitting we will also go outside to pray in the garden of remembrance.



**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**  
**at the War Memorial on The Green**  
**SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER**  
**1.00 p.m.**

Because of Covid-19 restrictions there will be no parade along Main Street to The Green. Sadly, the service cannot be open to the public. **Please do not attend unless you have an invitation.** Consult the Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes Association website [www.dmsa.org.uk](http://www.dmsa.org.uk) for further information.

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED**

This year the Annual Meeting will be held online in a similar way to our recent EGM to approve the new Constitution. The date of the AGM will be announced later.

Printed copies of the papers will be available for those who cannot access them online. Please speak to the Rector or Secretary if you need these.

We need to elect:

People's Warden

Lay Representative

Alternate Lay Representative

These are one year posts, but the present holders are eligible for re-election.

One or more ordinary members of the Vestry to serve for three years.

The retiring members are not eligible for re-election this year.

Please think about possible candidates, but remember to get their permission before you nominate them. Remember also that a seconder is needed.

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the church for Harvest.

1st November	Kate Corliss
8th November	REMEMBRANCE
15th November	Yvonne Boughton
22nd November	Jean Kendrew
29th November	ADVENT – no flowers until Christmas



### Flower Rota

For further information, or if you would like to donate the flowers but not arrange them, please contact Sarah ([sarahmillee@aol.com](mailto:sarahmillee@aol.com) or 237 5147) or Janette ([janettemiller17@hotmail.com](mailto:janettemiller17@hotmail.com) or 336 3417).



## MAGAZINE – ANOTHER BOUQUET

Jessie Wright has stepped down after many years of posting the magazine to subscribers who live at a distance and cannot easily pick up a copy in church. Thank you, Jessie.

## DISTRIBUTOR NEEDED

Would anyone like to deliver magazines to a few addresses in the Barnton/Cramond area? If you can help, please contact the Editor.

## DECEMBER/JANUARY MAGAZINE

Please remember that the next magazine is the combined December/January issue. The copy deadline is 19th November, but earlier would be welcome.

*Margaret Deas*

## HANDING IN OF SILVER SOCKS

If you have not yet handed in your Silver Sock, please do so as soon as possible. The Treasurer would prefer notes or a cheque to coins, or better still direct payment into the church bank account – details on opposite page.



Whatever method suits you best, please remember to include your name and state that it is Silver Sock money.

## TREASURER'S REPORT – Funding Target Reached

The Treasurer is happy!

The Scottish Episcopal Church Provincial Buildings Fund has looked favourably on us and on 5th October we received a grant of £20,850 from them towards the central heating replacement. Also, Scotland's Churches Trust awarded us £3,000 which arrived in our bank account on 22nd September. This means we have now raised enough in grants and donations to cover the cost of the new system in full. Many thanks to all of you for your incredible generosity.

Total cost of the central heating	£51,410
-----------------------------------	---------

Towards this we have received:

Donations	£22,530
-----------	---------

Gift Aid Recovery	£2,430
-------------------	--------

Grants	£27,100
--------	---------

Total Income	<u>£52,060</u>
--------------	----------------

This leaves us a surplus of £650.

Unfortunately, the hall boiler is reaching the end of its useful life and is displaying several warning lights. It needs repairs totalling £600 + VAT or we can get a new boiler with a ten year guarantee, plus pump, thermostat and controller for £3,600 + VAT. I have taken advice from A MacOwan and, with the Vestry's approval, have approached G N Tait to replace the system.

It's just one thing after another!

Can I say a word of thanks to all of you who have changed from paying by cheque, cash or envelope to paying by Standing Order. This makes my job so much easier and helps reduce any anxiety I have over queuing to go to the bank to make deposits. I have heard criticism of banks for pushing us to do our banking online but I'm firmly in favour of it.

If you would like to switch to paying by Standing Order our bank details are:

Sort Code           83-18-47

Account Number 00170278

Account Name   Church of the Holy Cross

Feel free to contact me at [colinmair123@gmail.com](mailto:colinmair123@gmail.com) or phone on 07576 647902 if you need any help to set this up.

*Colin Mair*

PS Still no refund from Scottish Power.

## BOOK REVIEW

### ***Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind* by Tom Holland**

When I go on holiday I usually take a small pile of books to read and, even on our first holiday with a baby, this year I was able to read a number of them. One was Tom Holland's *Dominion* about which I had heard a lot this year, and it lived up to its promise.

It is an exploration of the roots of the culture of our modern Western world in Christianity. Tom Holland has written novels, best-selling books on Greek, Roman and Anglo-Saxon history and presented TV programmes on Islam. His own background is Anglican but he became an atheist. Through his research he has now moved back closer to Christianity and in the *New Statesman* in 2016 he wrote, 'Christianity is the principal reason why, by and large, most of us who live in post-Christian societies still take for granted that it is nobler to suffer than to inflict suffering. It is why we generally assume that every human life is of equal value. In my morals and ethics, I have learned to accept that I am not Greek or Roman at all, but thoroughly and proudly Christian'.

This book reads like a good novel. It covers 2,000 years, the whole globe and a lot of profound ideas but for a book of intellectual history it is an easy read – I speak as one who has read many indigestible academic tomes. The history in it is reliable and the sweep is broad. We move from the first heated swimming pool in ancient Rome to the uplands of Galatia, from the burning of a heretic in Cambrai to the Bureau of Astronomy in Peking, and from Martin Luther's toilet to Nelson Mandela's prison cell. The author is quite blunt about the failures of Christians and the evils they have caused. The book begins with an analysis of the practice of crucifixion in the Roman Empire and ends with today's world with its #MeToo protests about the abuse of women, Islamist terrorism, LGBT+ activism and anti-immigrant populism, but it really ends with the edifying death of the author's Anglican school-teacher godmother, Aunty Deb.

The result of all Tom Holland's researches is that everything that is good and distinctive about the modern Western world is the result of the revolution caused by Christianity. This is particularly true of things and values which are often seen as secular such as equality before the law, feminism, science, international law, modern democracy, human rights and the value we place on freedom. Even the enemies of Christianity such as modern atheism and Marxism are tributary to it.

To find out more about this, buy and read the book. As the tide of faith goes out in our society we are living on borrowed time. An echo of Christian values survives in our society but it is getting fainter. If we wish to defend the



freedoms to which we have become accustomed, it is necessary to return to the faith of the crucified God-man and ensure that our Christian faith is purified from the prejudices that have been mixed up with it.

*Stephen Holmes*



## **CHRISTIAN AID ORGANISER NEEDED**

For the past 25 years and more the same small committee from the Parish Church and Holy Cross has organised Christian Aid Week in our area. We all now feel that it is time for others with new ideas to take over.

It seems likely that someone from the Parish Church will take on the role of Local Organiser. In any case, I am not willing to continue beyond the end of this year. If anyone is keen on the job, please tell me and I'll pass the information on to the Parish Church.

I am also Holy Cross representative on the local committee. If necessary I will do this for a bit longer, but I would prefer to give that up at the same time. Please tell me if you feel you could take over.

We do not know what will happen to Christian Aid Week next year, or whether there is a future for house-to-house collections, but the work, and therefore the need for money, goes on.

*Margaret Deas*

## **SYCAMORE TREE CAFÉ at Davidson's Mains Parish Church**

As some members of Holy Cross have already discovered, the Sycamore Tree is open for business, with socially distanced tables, a one-way system and quantities of sanitiser. There are teas and coffees and cake (sometimes homemade, sometimes not) and the homemade soup is as good as ever.

The café is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and is staffed by volunteers. We need more helpers, especially for the afternoon shift on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The shift is from 12 to 3 p.m. or whenever we have finished clearing up. No particular qualifications are needed, so why not give it a go? All you need is a reasonably calm temperament and a readiness to be on your feet, and in a mask, for most of the shift. No payment, but you do get free soup.

To volunteer, or for more information, email Anh, the café manager, at [sycamoretree@dmpc.org.uk](mailto:sycamoretree@dmpc.org.uk)

## HOLY CROSS CALENDAR – NOVEMBER

Saints and services for the second half of November will appear in the newsletter.

### **Sunday 1st ALL SAINTS – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

The day when we remember all the holy people, known and unknown, who are with God in heaven. The feast began in England in the eighth century, although there had been similar commemorations in Rome and the East.

### **Monday 2nd ALL SOULS – Requiem Eucharist 7.30 p.m.**

All Souls is a day to remember and pray for the dead which was put into its current form by St Odilo of Cluny in the tenth century. The Scottish Episcopal Church has always prayed for our departed loved ones but this only became widespread in Anglicanism after the great slaughter of the First World War. It is a time when Christians often visit family graves.

### **Tuesday 3rd Richard Hooker, Priest and Teacher of the Faith 1600**

Hooker was an English priest and theologian who provided a theological grounding for Anglicanism under Queen Elizabeth I in his ‘Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity’. For Hooker, Anglicanism is both Catholic and Reformed and in continuity with the medieval Catholic Church. He opposed the narrow view of the Bible held by the Puritans and taught that Scripture must be interpreted in the light of reason and Christian tradition.

### **Wednesday 4th – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

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

### **Friday 6th**

### **Saturday 7th Willibrord, Bishop and Missionary, 739**

Willibrord was from Yorkshire but became a monk and priest in Ireland. He was a missionary to the pagan tribes of what is now the Netherlands and became the first Bishop of Utrecht. His biographer says he ‘was always venerable, gracious and full of joy’. A holy dance is still performed each year at his monastery of Echternach. The Scottish Episcopal Church is in full communion with the Old Catholic Church of Utrecht which broke away from Rome.

### **Sunday 8th REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (Pentecost 23) – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

### **Act of Remembrance, Davidson’s Mains War Memorial – 1p.m.**

### **Monday 9th George Hay Forbes, Priest**

The brother of Bishop Forbes of Brechin, George was disabled but overcame this to become a great scholar and, after being ordained priest, the founder of the Episcopal Church at Burntisland.

**Tuesday 10th** Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome and Teacher of the Faith, 461  
He became Pope in 440 and strengthened the Church in many ways, including providing the definitive understanding of how Jesus is both God and human. He reformed the liturgy, preached many excellent sermons which are still worth reading and faced down Attila the Hun, persuading him to leave Italy.

**Wednesday 11th** Martin of Tours, Bishop, c.397 – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**  
Martin was a pagan Roman soldier who became a Christian after he gave half of his military cloak to a beggar and had a vision of Jesus wearing it. He later became a monk and bishop of Tours. Martin's cloak (in Latin *cappa*) was kept in the royal oratory and was looked after by a priest called the *cappelanu* which was put into French as *chapelain* from which we have the word 'chaplain'. The place where the cloak was held was called the *capella* ('little cloak') from which we get the word 'chapel'.

**Thursday 12th** Machar, Bishop, c.600 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**  
Machar was an early missionary monk who came from Ireland to Mull and then lived in Aberdeenshire where he was made Bishop, he is traditionally seen as the first Bishop of Aberdeen.

**Friday 13th**

**Saturday 14th** Consecration of Samuel Seabury, 1784  
After the USA achieved independence the Anglicans in the new state were unable to have a bishop consecrated in England as he would have had to swear an oath to King George. Samuel Seabury had studied medicine at Edinburgh, where he had worshipped in Episcopal churches, before returning to America as a priest. In 1784 he was sent to Aberdeen to be consecrated bishop by the Scottish Episcopal Bishops and was thus the first Bishop of the American Episcopal Church which still values its links with our Church.

**Sunday 15th 24th Sunday after Pentecost – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

**Sunday 29th First Sunday of Advent**

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**24th December**

Unfortunately we are unable to have the Christingle Service this year... it will return!

11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass (with music and incense)

**25th December**

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (the 'Dawn Mass', a short Christmas Eucharist without music using the traditional 1970 Scottish Liturgy)

10.30 a.m. Christmas Eucharist (with music)

## WORSHIP

Our main service is the Sunday Eucharist which is celebrated in the church at 10.30 a.m. and is open to the public. All are welcome although numbers are limited – so far we have had a few seats left each week (though we were full for the recent baptism). Coronavirus precautions are in place and everyone is required to wear a mask or similar face covering (unless they have valid reasons not to) and to use hand sanitiser. The Eucharist is also celebrated at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesdays with the same precautions.

The weekly Holy Cross worship video has now ceased but they are still available on the Holy Cross YouTube channel and we hope to share more later: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBIGcZmVqp\\_sfgYon3WU28w/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBIGcZmVqp_sfgYon3WU28w/videos)

On Thursdays at 5 p.m. a group from Holy Cross meet on Zoom to say Evening Prayer. All the words are provided. I send out an invitation each week to those who regularly take part and if you wish to join us, email me at [rector.hce@gmail.com](mailto:rector.hce@gmail.com) and I will send you the invitation and password to enable you to join in on your computer (it needs to have a camera).

## SUNDAY READINGS

1st Nov.	<b>ALL SAINTS</b> Revelation 7.9-17 Psalm 34.1-10 1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12	22nd Nov.	<b>CHRIST THE KING</b> Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24 Psalm 95.1-7a Ephesians 1.15-23 Matthew 25.31-46
8th Nov.	<b>REMEMBRANCE</b> Job 19.21-27 Psalm 90 1 Corinthians 15.51-57 John 6.37-40	29th Nov.	<b>ADVENT 1</b> Isaiah 64.1-9 Psalm 80.1-7,17-19 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-37
15th Nov.	<b>PENTECOST 24</b> Zephaniah 1.7,12-18 Psalm 90.1-8, 12 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 Matthew 25.14-30	6th Dec.	<b>ADVENT 2</b> Isaiah 40.1-11 Psalm 85.1-2,8-13 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8