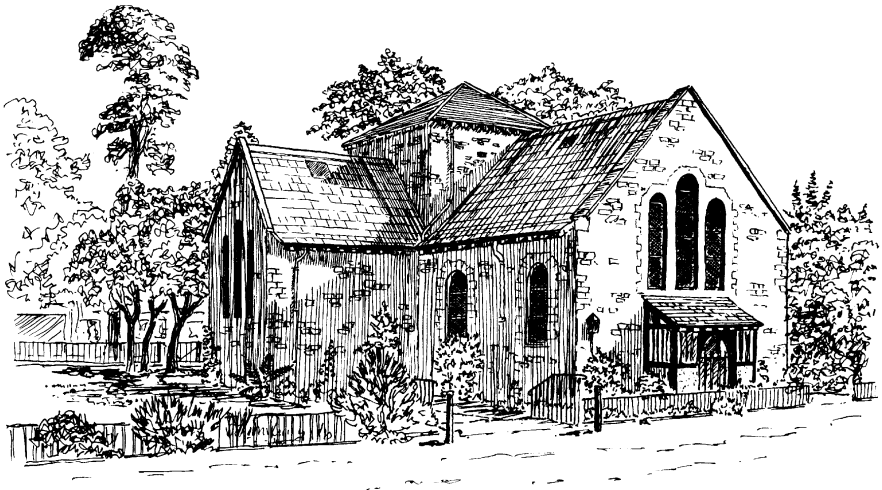


# Church of the Holy Cross

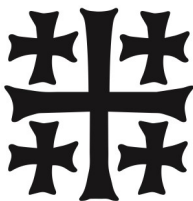
DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

NOVEMBER 2021



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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

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## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

It is November again and, as so often, the Church's calendar fits what is going on in nature. We returned from holiday last month to find the leaves steadily falling in the church grounds and at Lauriston over the road from the Rectory. This preparation for bleak winter reminds us to remember, and November is the month of remembrance – starting with All Saints and All Souls, passing through our Family Service on 'remembering those we miss' on the 7th, Remembrance Sunday on the 14th and moving on into Advent, when we remember all those prophets waiting for Mary to give birth to the Messiah. Finally we remember something that hasn't yet happened, the last judgement and the consummation of all things in the love of God.

Just over a month ago we lost Pat Gunn, a long-standing and much loved member of our congregation who died on 27th September and whose funeral was on 26th October. Many of you will have your memories of Pat and, having met her at church before the first lockdown, I enjoyed bringing her Holy Communion at home, always using the traditional prayers of the Book of Common Prayer. It was a great privilege to be able to bring her the sacraments in hospital in her last days. We pray for Pat and for her family and friends.

The leaves are falling but we were able to give thanks for the harvest at the start of last month, something very personal to us at Holy Cross as we have a very productive garden behind the church hall and regularly eat the produce of our own soil. Big thanks to Janette and Sarah for organising our Harvest Lunch and to all who contributed towards it. We hope to have occasional community lunches for the congregation and friends in the hall on Sundays during the year.

November sees the global climate conference, COP26, in Glasgow and we will hear more about the environmental crisis as the government and churches bring in their plans to reduce carbon emissions. Our Scottish Episcopal Church has committed itself to net zero emissions by 2030, but each congregation is an independent charity so we at Holy Cross will need to see what we can do. It sometimes seems strange to 'pray for the earth' but God has not only given us this world to care for as our home, he has also become part of his creation by taking on a human body and soul in Jesus Christ.

We look forward to Christmas and there will be a lot going on in Advent. 'Play Church', a diocesan resource for children, will be coming to Holy Cross

at the end of the month. Bel Canto, a small Edinburgh-based vocal ensemble performing unaccompanied sacred and secular music, will be having its Christmas Concert at Holy Cross on Sunday 12th December at 7.30 p.m., and we will have our own Carol Service on the following Sunday evening (Christmas is on a Saturday this year). But let us enjoy the quiet and muted colours of autumn as the leaves fall.

With love in Christ,



### FROM THE REGISTERS

**Funeral:** Pat Gunn on 26th October

### ALL SOULS REQUIEM

7.30 p.m.

**Tuesday 2nd November**

Please email the Rector with any names to be remembered.

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVICE

4 p.m.

**Sunday 7th November**

***Saying Goodbye: Remembering those we miss***



Half an hour of stories and songs, followed by refreshments. Bring your own packed tea – drinks will be provided.



### ACT OF REMEMBRANCE at the War Memorial on The Green

1.00 p.m.

**Sunday 14th November**

Assemble in East Barnton Avenue at 12.40. Procession moves off at 12.50.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

### **Sunday 21st November**

The meeting will take place after the 10.30 service. Please take just a short coffee break so that we can start (and finish) promptly.

Papers and nomination sheets will be available in advance.

We need to elect: People's Warden  
Lay Representative  
Alternate Lay Representative

These are one-year posts, but the present holders may be re-elected.  
Vestry Members, to serve for three years.

Retiring members are not eligible for re-election this year.

Advance nominations save time at the meeting. Please think about possible candidates, but remember to get their permission before you nominate them. Remember also that a seconder is needed.

## **LATIN EUCHARIST**

**5 p.m.**

**Tuesday 23rd November**

A celebration in Latin using the 1970 Scottish Liturgy in translation.



## **DAVIDSON'S MAINS CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

**Saturday 27th November**  
**11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**



There will be stalls in the church grounds and hall, and around the local area. Holy Cross Children's Ministry will have a stall in the hall. Please visit it!

There will be a **Community Switch On at 6 p.m. on Friday 26th** – people are invited to switch on their Christmas lights at home at that time to coincide with the switching on of the Davidson's Mains Christmas lights. (There isn't going to be a gathering to mark the event this year.)

Look out for local publicity with more details, or check the [Davidson's Mains Christmas Lights Facebook page](#).

**IONA COMMUNITY BIG SING FOR COP26**  
**Saturday 6th November**  
**2 p.m.**  
**Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh**

*From the Iona Community Newsletter:*

The call to this Big Sing arose from one of our small-group morning sessions during August Community Week. Sharing our deep and disturbing concerns about the effects of climate change and our fears/hopes for the forthcoming COP26 in Glasgow, our group asked 'How can we, the Iona Community, speak truth to power on this issue, given the constraints on protestors gathering in Glasgow?'. As individuals we feel powerless but our greatest strength comes when we connect together as a community. We have done it previously under the Iona Community banner, many times and in many places. And it feels important, essential even, to do it again, for the future of our environment affects the whole of humanity and every area of work within and across our Common Concern Networks (CCNs).

Our planned action is a simple one – to gather, under the Iona Community banner and with individually made placards, in front of the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (permission already given), away from the inevitable corralling of protestors in Glasgow, and to hold a 'Big Sing'. We are realistic about how many may or may not hear our voices on that day. But our small group has committed to bear witness, to be a presence, to call for change. And we will be stronger if we have representatives from different CCNs, Family and Associates Groups and the Young Adults' Group. Please put the date in your diaries and join us if you possibly can – and please let as many other people as possible know about it too; you will be connected to many individuals and groups far and wide, so gather them in!

**PLAY CHURCH**

Play Church is a small, portable, consecrated altar, with child-sized vestments and communion vessels, plus clothing and equipment to do play weddings and baptisms. It is on a constant pilgrimage around the diocese, being hosted by different churches for a few months each. We have some ideas about how we're going to use it, but are still planning and more details will follow. There's lots more information here:

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/play-church/>

*Izzy Holmes*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

31st August is the end of Holy Cross's financial year and I have now completed our Annual Accounts ahead of the AGM in November and submitted them to our Independent Examiner for approval. These accounts will give a full picture of our finances over the past year and will be presented to the congregation in advance of the AGM; depending on when you are reading this, you may already have seen them.

Broadly speaking our financial position has returned to where it was two years ago on 31st August 2019. What a lot has happened since then! New Rector, new central heating systems in the church and hall, and a global pandemic and lockdown. It is a testimony to the fundraising skills and the generosity of the congregation that we have negotiated these events with our finances intact. We have also been helped by a reclaim of VAT from the central heating project and the recovery in value of our M&G Investments, which fell sharply in the early part of lockdown but have now fully recovered the lost value and more.

We look to the new financial year and the challenges posed with guarded confidence.

*Colin Mair*

*October 2021*

### DECEMBER/JANUARY MAGAZINE

Please remember that the next magazine will be the December/January double issue – there is no magazine in January. (The computer and printer take a Christmas holiday!) Copy deadline is 19th November. Please let the editor know in plenty of time about anything happening in December, January or early February.

### FLOWERS IN CHURCH

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

|               |                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7th November  | Mary Egan                           |
| 14th November | Remembrance                         |
| 21st November | Kate Corliss                        |
| 28th November | Advent – no flowers until Christmas |



God of day and night, dusk and dawn, sometimes we see only binaries. Help us to notice the diversity of your people.

God of sea and sky, horizons and margins, sometimes we yearn to stay safe in the centre. Help us to go out to the edges of your community.

God of trees and flowers, bushes and shrubs, sometimes we are determined to categorise. Help us to move beyond easy words and assumptions.

God of sun and moon, stars and comets, sometimes we are stuck on the next big problem or debate. Help us to pay attention to the little niggles of daily injustice and struggle.

God of hawks and dolphins, of puffins and penguins, sometimes we close our ears to new ideas. Help us to come into dialogue with each other, hearing stories, meeting other realities, ready and willing to change our minds.

Amen

*Alex Clare-Young (From the Iona Community Newsletter)*

## **CHRISTIANITY: A GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED**

*By Keith Ward. Reviewed by Andrew Vass*

This is one of the books recommended by St John's Episcopal Church for those wishing to explore Christianity. Perhaps books which are aimed at non-Christians 'wishing to test the waters' need to be brief yet poignant. Prof Ward's forward and introduction make some poignant claims. 'Christian teaching often seems to be presented in a way that is irrelevant to, or in opposition to modern knowledge.' That's correct. It would seem that for many people Christianity is so out, so yesterday. 'The diverse traditions (of world religions) can interact with one another to provide a deeper understanding of God's purpose for humanity.' Okay, such thoughts give this book its plot. So, I asked myself, 'does the writer handle the plot well?'

So, what did Jesus offer? 'The liberation he announces is not from political enemies but from the powers of evil within the heart.' I must point out here that I am wary of phrases that suggest either religious jargon or sublime mysticism, so I asked myself, 'does the writer explain the heart's problems in insightful balanced terms?'. 'Millions of years ago,' he tells us, a 'choice began to emerge between the egoistic desire for dominance and the possibility of acting for the sake of good alone'. History does indeed seem to be a story of the ebb and flow of civilising influences. And where are we now? Today our society 'teaches us that it is natural to put our own interests first'. Does that naturally lead us to slip back into precivilization choices? The author tells us



that it is easy for us to 'become enslaved to selfish desires which promise much but deliver only emptiness'. Unless we take stock often, we fail to spot the old pattern, the mental games humans so easily play.

A good example of Jesus calling this egoistic game was when 'two disciples wished to call down fire on villages that had rejected Jesus'; he told them that 'the son of man has not come to destroy the lives of human beings but to save them'. Henceforth Christians would try to have the mind of Christ. 'That mind is not learned by obedience to rules but by openness to the Spirit of God,' Prof Ward tells us. I find this phrase to be unsatisfactory. The problem is that 'being open to the Spirit' is a much misused phrase, trivialised by so many Christians in the past. I agree with the concept of being 'open to the Spirit' but think the sentence the author uses it in is an unconvincing one. To be fair, the author seems to support a similarly honest appraisal of times in Christian history during which Christians failed to deal with problems in an exemplary way. He admits there was a cruel age of Christian wars and persecutions after the Reformation. Yet in that shocking story of civilisation's demise, Christians were apparently very open to the Spirit. It would seem that the act of assuming oneself to be 'open to the Spirit' can be a form of misdirection – a cheap conjuring trick of some kind. The Bible has plenty passages that promote misdirection, pitfalls which in the past the fundamentalists have fallen into. The Ku Klux Klan has quoted passages of Scripture, without grasping the importance of their context. How can we avoid the fundamentalist trap? Perhaps it is better to invite people to consider what it is to have the mind of Christ by attending to what it isn't. One must really focus on what Christ exemplifies if one wants to have his mind. And stay with the essentials of the Gospels to have the mind of Christ, and take every thought captive.

Keith Ward also seems to be in agreement with that, when he points out that, 'The Bible is not a history book. It is a book of the prophetic discernments'. 'We cannot be bound by ancient records.' 'The Bible should be read in a way that the discernments it records can evoke corresponding but unpredictable and new discernments in us'. Okay, overall, the author does deal with the essentials of his plot (which I outlined in my introduction). And I think he is right to point us towards discipleship and not back to fundamentalist approaches. One needs to get to know and be inspired by Christ – even if one can't always assume that the Gospel versions of his life are totally reliable. 'This is the way Christians can worship Jesus,' Keith Ward tells us, 'In him the perfect beauty of God is manifested for us in human life'. Our aim is to be uplifted so that when we pray, we pray without selfishness. 'We should pray that we find real happiness in the happiness of others.'

## NOVEMBER KALENDAR and READINGS 2021

### **Sunday 31st October ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 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.*

*Collect: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys which you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Readings: Wisdom 3.1-9 Psalm 24.1-6 Revelation 21.1-6a  
John 11.32-44*

Monday 1st November – ALL SAINTS transferred to Sunday 31st October

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

*Readings: Wisdom 3.1-9 John 6.37-40*

*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.*

### **Wednesday 3rd November – Richard Hooker, Priest and Teacher of the Faith 1600 – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings: Romans 13.8-10 Psalm 112 Luke 14.35-33*

*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.*

### **Thursday 4th November – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

### **Sunday 7th November – 24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, your will is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Readings: I Kings 17.8-16 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9.24-28  
Mark 12.38-44

Monday 8th November (*Diocesan Clergy Conference in Pitlochry, 8-11 November*)

Tuesday 9th November – 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.*

**Wednesday 10th November** – Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome and Teacher of the Faith, 461 – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Wisdom 6.1-11 Psalm 82 Luke 17.11-19

*Leo 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.*

**Thursday 11th November** – Martin of Tours, Bishop, c.397 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.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'.*

Friday 12th November – Machar, Bishop, c.600

*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.*

**Sunday 14th November – 25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Remembrance Sunday) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

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

*Collect: Heavenly Father, your blessed Son came to destroy the works of the devil and make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Readings: Job 19.21-27 Psalm 90 I Corinthians 15.51-57  
John 6.37-40

Tuesday 16th November – **MARGARET OF SCOTLAND, 1093**

*Margaret was a member of the Anglo-Saxon royal family who grew up in exile in Hungary and married Malcolm Canmore King of the Scots. She was a holy wife and mother who served the poor and used her position to help reform the Church. She was buried at Dunfermline.*

**Wednesday 17th November** – Hugh of Lincoln, 1200 – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings: 2 Maccabees 7.1,20-31,39-42 Psalm 17.1-8 Luke 19.11-28*

*Hugh was a Carthusian monk and hermit who came to England and became Bishop of Lincoln. He promoted reform of the Church, served lepers and protected Jews. His image in art is his tame swan.*

**Thursday 18th November** – Fergus, c.750 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

*A Pict who studied in Ireland and attended a Church Council in Rome in 721 AD with the Bishop of Strathclyde. He is commemorated in places from Wick to the Tay and his cave and well are found at Glamis.*

Friday 19th November – Hilda of Whitby, 680

*A Saxon Princess, Hilda became a nun and founded a ‘double monastery’ of monks and nuns at Whitby which she led. She advised bishops and kings, promoted learning in Latin and Anglo-Saxon, encouraging the Anglo-Saxon poet Caedmon. She supported Irish monastic traditions but at the Synod of Whitby gave her allegiance to Roman customs. Her last years were pained by chronic illness.*

**Sunday 21st November** – **CHRIST THE KING** – **Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Collect: Eternal Father, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; through the same Christ our Lord, Amen.*

*Readings: Daniel 7.9-10,13-14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1.4b-8  
John 18.33-37*

Monday 22nd November – Cecilia, Martyr, c.230

*An aristocratic Roman girl who refused marriage because of her love for Jesus and desire for virginity, she was killed in a bathhouse. One of the most popular of the Roman saints, in 1599 her body was found incorrupt but it soon turned to dust. As she is said to have sung at her martyrdom she is the patron of musicians.*

**Tuesday 23rd November** – Clement of Rome, c.100 – **Latin Eucharist (1970 Scottish Liturgy) 5 p.m.**

*Clement was the fourth Bishop of Rome and wrote a letter to the Corinthians in 96 AD which reveals much about the early Church in the New Testament period. He is said to have been martyred and is buried in San Clemente in Rome and his emblem is an anchor, for hope.*

**Wednesday 24th November – Lucy Menzies, 1954 – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings: Daniel 5.1-6,13-28 Psalm 98 Luke 21.10-19*

*The daughter of a Church of Scotland minister, she became an Episcopalian and worshipped at All Saints, St Andrews. She wrote lives of Columba and other Saints, lived a life of deep prayer and was a pioneer of the retreat movement, being Warden of Pleshey Retreat House.*

**Thursday 25th November – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

**Sunday 28th November – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Collect: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

*Readings: Jeremiah 33.14-16 Psalm 25.1-10 I Thessalonians 3.9-13  
Luke 21.25-36*

**Tuesday 30th November - ST ANDREW, PATRON OF SCOTLAND**

*Collect: Almighty God, you gave such grace to your holy apostle St Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ and brought his brother with him: call us by your holy word and give us grace to follow without delay, and to tell the good news of your kingdom; through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

**Wednesday 1st December – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings: Isaiah 25.6-9 Psalm 23 Matthew 15.29-39*

**Sunday 5th December – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings: Baruch 5.1-9 Canticle: Benedictus (Luke 1.68-79)  
Philippians 1.3-11 Luke 3.1-6*

## WORSHIP

Our usual weekly services are:

Sunday 9.00 a.m. Said Eucharist (experimental until Christmas)  
10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

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.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our special Christmas services, which (unless noted) last about 40 minutes to an hour, are:

**Sunday 12th December, 7.30 p.m.** Christmas Concert by Bel Canto, a small Edinburgh-based vocal ensemble performing unaccompanied sacred and secular music

**Sunday 19th December, 7.30 p.m.** Holy Cross Carol Service

**24th December** – Christmas Eve

**3 p.m.** Christingle Service, a fun, traditional favourite for children and families

**11.30 p.m.** Midnight Mass, a Christmas celebration of Holy Communion with music and incense

**25th December** – Christmas Day

**9 a.m.** a quiet and short Christmas celebration of Holy Communion using the traditional 1970 Liturgy of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

**10.30 a.m.** a joyful family celebration of Christmas Holy Communion with music.

These services are open to all, and all may receive Holy Communion. All services follow our **coronavirus plan** with special precautions around receiving the bread of holy communion, the use of hand sanitiser and the wearing of masks (community singing is allowed but masks need to be worn by the congregation, unless exempt). There is no need to book, except for the Bel Canto concert, but, as recommended, a contact number is taken at the door solely for contact tracing purposes.



