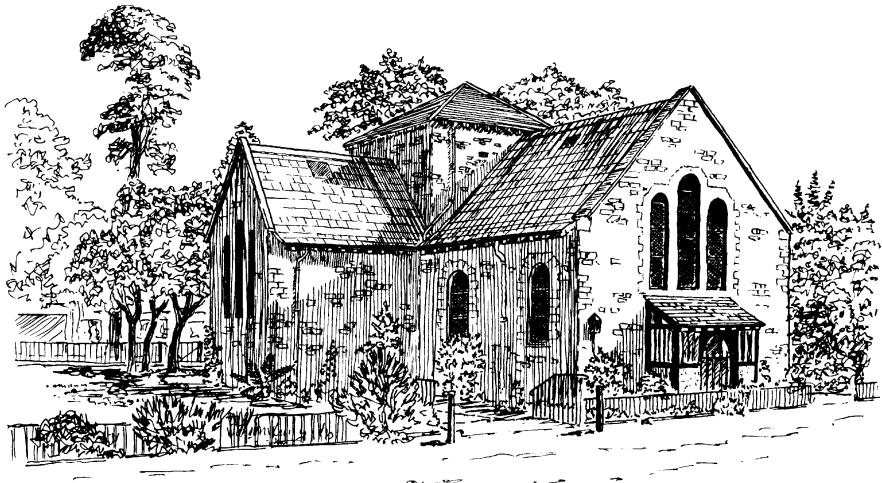


Church of the Holy Cross

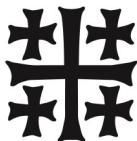
DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

FEBRUARY 2023



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

A happy and blessed New Year to you all! Since our last magazine came out in December we have had our first ‘normal’ Christmas since I arrived three years ago and it was a great joy. We worked closely with the Davidson’s Mains Christmas Lights committee to ensure a very successful Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on at Holy Cross with thousands thronging our grounds and hundreds visiting our open church which Izzy describes in her report elsewhere in this magazine. Vaughan also conducted a choir of Holy Cross people and friends to sing carols in four parts on the stage.

Just before Christmas we joined with our friends from St Margaret’s RC Church and the Davidson’s Mains Church of Scotland to sing carols in Ye Olde Inn. It was great fun, including a spontaneous rendition of ‘While shepherds watched’ to its old tune, commonly known as ‘On Ilkla Moor baht ’at’. We raised £180 for the Scottish Christian charity Mary’s Meals which they were able to double to allow 22 children in the developing world to have meals each day for a year to help them come to school.

In the church we had our Community Carols with music from our musicians and readings by local community leaders, including representatives of the Cramond Association and the Davidson’s Mains & Silverknowes Association because our ‘parish’ covers both areas. On Christmas Eve our Christingle Nativity service was a great success with a full church, as Izzy writes elsewhere. Both services raised £622 for the St Salvador’s food bank. At Christingle I saw lots of faces from Toddler Church which shows how vibrant our children’s ministry has become. All these services and events help us to contribute to the local community and build new links. Members of the Lights Committee even power washed our paths to reveal a pristine surface underneath.

Christmas can be a sad time for some and January saw a number of funerals. Elizabeth Voge from Strachan House was a former member of St Margaret’s, Corstorphine, St John’s and the Cathedral and her sons wanted her funeral to be at Holy Cross. Jessie Greening, the mother of Elizabeth Page whom some of us know, belonged to Episcopal churches in Rosyth and Dunfermline and was latterly in a care home in Broxburn. Esmé Randall had been a member of Holy Cross ‘on and off since 1953’ as she wrote in the recent church questionnaire. She will be greatly missed in our church community to which she contributed so much over the years. When Izzy and I arrived back in Edinburgh three years ago in a cold January it was a real consolation to

find Esmé and Bill at the back door with one of her excellent fish pies. Her sudden death will leave a great gap in our community. We offer our love and support to Bill, Elizabeth and all who are bereaved.

Many of the people who have visited our church in the past few months have commented on how beautiful it is. As I mentioned in a previous magazine, two small new vigil lamps have been gifted in memory of Sylvia Vass and we hope that they will be installed in the church this month near our Kondopoga icons of Jesus and Mary. They will replace the two long candle stands currently there.

Having started with Christmas, our gaze turns to Lent and Easter. As Christians we live by the Church year, and the music and readings we encounter in the various seasons form our faith as we worship in church week by week. This year we are planning Lent groups in person and online in collaboration with St Salvador's and details of these will be sent out later. The *Cantores Sanctae Crucis* will be returning during the year and will be singing at Tenebrae in Holy Week and at other services. You can read elsewhere about a number of exciting things for children and families planned at Holy Cross – it is great that our children's ministry is flourishing under Izzy's leadership as our children's minister. Please pray for all these events and for all of us involved in ministry here at Holy Cross and at St Salvador's.

With love in Christ,



FROM THE REGISTERS

Confirmation:

David Townhill on Sunday 29th January at Holy Cross

Funerals:

Elizabeth Voge on Tuesday 17th January

Esmé Randall on Friday 20th January

Jessie Greening on Thursday 26th January in Dunfermline

ASH WEDNESDAY
22nd FEBRUARY
HOLY COMMUNION WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES
10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the church beautiful for Christmas.

Thanks also to Sarah, Yvonne and Jenny Harrison for the flowers in January.

5th February	?
12th February	Margaret Deas
19th February	?
26th February	LENT – no flowers until Easter



Flower Rota 2023

The new rota is on the noticeboard. Please sign up for the Sundays when you would like to be responsible for the flowers. There are gaps in February as well as later in the year. If you are uncertain what to do or where to find the vases, consult Sarah.

If you would like to donate the flowers but cannot arrange them yourself please contact Sarah (sarahmillee@aol.com).



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FRIDAY 3rd MARCH
2.30 p.m.
St COLUMBA'S CHURCH, BLACKHALL

Every year on (or near) the first Friday in March, Christians around the world, of all denominations, church groups and ages, gather in small groups and large congregations using the same basic form of worship, written by women of a different country each year on a theme chosen by the World Day of Prayer International Committee.

This year the Service is written by the women of Taiwan. They reflect on God's words, 'I have heard about your faith', and invite us to join them as they pray

for our environment
for peace in their Nation
that all may live in unity, in love and in peace.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Over Christmas the collections from the Candlelit Carol Service on Sunday 18th and the Christingle Service on 24th December were in support of St Salvador's food bank. Thanks to a combination of cash donations and generous online contributions we raised £650 which I have sent to St Salvador's. We also held a carol singing evening, along with the other local churches, in Ye Olde Inn, thanks to the warm invitation from Rana the manager. A collection was taken there and raised £180 for Mary's Meals. This donation is being matched by a benefactor and is enough to feed several children for a whole year! It is nice for me as Treasurer to be sending money to these worthy causes.

Looking at our financial position at the end of December, I would describe it as sound but slightly nerve-wracking. To date our total 'balance of payments' is close to my budget estimates, although there are pluses and minuses in different areas. However, I am anxious that repairs and maintenance expenditure will exceed my estimates. Essential electrical work and hall refurbishment, much of it highlighted in our recent quinquennial review, will put a severe strain on our finances. We will be relying on grants, donations and fundraising events to raise the necessary funds. I ask you all to put your thinking caps on and consider how we can achieve this.

I would like to finish by wishing everyone a very happy and healthy New Year.

*Colin Mair,
Treasurer*

HALL RENEWAL FUNDRAISING

Vestry has started planning an upgrading of our church hall based on recommendations from the recent architect's inspection (see Treasurer's Report above). A project group has met with professionals and worked out what needs to be done.

Apart from urgent work on the wiring, the project can't start until funds are in place. It will cost around £40,000. A lot of money for a small congregation.

We have a small fundraising group but **CAN YOU HELP?**

We need people to apply for grants and to raise money in other ways.

Please contact the Rector if you would like to help, or have any brilliant ideas.

NEWS FROM ST SALVADOR'S

Greetings from St Salvador's. The Christmas period was busy, with a Messy Church event, a community carol service and our Community Food Initiative. So, let me share a few words about life over the hill.



Messy Church is an initiative that seeks to make church accessible to young families. Through crafts, games and storytelling, the aim is to create a space in which people can hear the stories of the Bible. In December we focused on the Christmas story, by making angels and sheep, and acting out the Nativity. We were concerned that no one would come when the morning of the event saw the arrival of snow. However, the weather worked in our favour because families who were outside playing in the snow came into the church to see what we were doing. An enjoyable time was had by all, and we established some new relationships with local families in Stenhouse.

The Community Council asked if we would host a carol service in the run-up to Christmas. We decided to keep things simple, with well known carols and readings by different groups in the community. The last-minute absence of an organist made things even simpler but thankfully we had recordings on hand to continue the service. This was another great opportunity to connect with people in the area and to bring the two local church communities together.

We recently marked a significant moment at the Community Food Initiative. For the first time, we gave away over 100 bags in a single session. This reflects the significant increase we have seen of people using our services; the increase in numbers largely comes from international students living in the local area. The increase in numbers has posed some logistical challenges but our volunteer team has discerned a way forward. For those who would

like to donate items, please consider donating bags of rice, cooking oil, sugar, tea, coffee and biscuits. There is a box on the bench inside the door of Holy Cross for your contributions. Further information from the clergy or David Townhill.

In the coming weeks we are due to have a class from the local primary school visit us, we are planning to host another Messy Church, and the Monday night Bible study is returning. I'm sure it will be another busy few weeks.

*The Revd Dr Ross Jesmont
Assistant Curate, St Salvador's (Stenhouse) and Holy Cross*

INDIA CALLING

Dear friends,

You may remember that I arrived back from India on 6th March 2020, not long before the first lockdown started. Many have asked me recently when I am planning to go back, and I have rather fudged my reply because I didn't know and was finding it hard to plan. In fact for the first time ever I felt rather timid about the whole thing. However, over the last couple of months I have at last felt able to begin to view things in a more positive light and have even started to make the first steps towards a visit. If I do go, it will be very soon, February/March are the best times as the weather is a little cooler – only reaching around 36° in the daytime and around 29° at night. From mid-March onwards temperatures rise quickly and then the monsoon arrives.

By the time this magazine reaches you, I am likely to have been for a visa application appointment – there is no guarantee that this will be granted, but if it is, then I can really get things moving. I have a vaccination appointment the next day, as many of my vaccinations are now out of date. My next step will be to confirm with the people in Tirunelveli that I will be coming. There is a new Bishop there since my last visit but fortunately he is somebody I know which will make things a little easier. The school which I visit is run by the Church of South India so the Bishop needs to agree to my being there. I wrote to him last year to raise the possibility of a visit and he was very welcoming so hopefully all will be well in that respect. I have also asked him to request accommodation for me in one of the church guest rooms. These are very basic but do have air conditioning and will only cost me a minimal rent. I will also buy a plane ticket.

I am asking as usual for your prayer support during my time in Tirunelveli: for my travel; for my time in the school; for my health; for the staff, children and parents I will meet while there; for my family here while I am away; and for a safe homecoming. This is all happening rather quickly, more quickly than I feel comfortable with to be perfectly honest, but God has looked after me in the past and I am confident will continue to do so.

It's at times like this that I remember Mother Julian's words: 'all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well'.

Thank you for your prayers.

Sally

Stop press – the visa has arrived so it's all systems go!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Since I last wrote, we have had two big family events at Holy Cross: the Christmas Market at the end of November and Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. Both were a great success.

Christingle Service

The Christingle Service was wonderful, with over 130 people in the church (we lost count!) and a lot of laughter. The service was built around the Christmas Story with all of the usual favourite carols. We began with our Toddler Church welcome song, 'Welcome Everybody' by Fischy Music, then heard the story of Creation read by our organist David Townhill. Before the service we had put a cuddly toy animal on every seat in the church and after David's reading I invited the congregation to bring up their toys and put them all around the crib to make a Creation scene. Cue ten minutes of glorious chaos!

We then had the Annunciation read by the Revd Hayley Cohen (who is married to our Curate, Ross) followed by Brother Joe and Stephen reading Caesar's decree, complete with the playground bell from Davidson's Mains Primary School (voted 'the BEST THING about the service' by a young member of Toddler Church who is somewhat obsessed with bells), and the innkeeper scene. If anyone would like to ask about the historical accuracy of the innkeeper's Dartford accent, please speak to the Rector...

We put out the lights, lit our hand-held candles, and listened to the story of Jesus's birth read by Jean Williams (Sacristan at Holy Cross, as I'm sure most of you know!), followed by candlelit singing of 'Away in a Manger' to welcome the new-born baby Jesus. The atmosphere was beautiful – hushed and peaceful... At which point I realised we were singing to an empty manger because I'd forgotten to ask the person in charge of the baby Jesus figure to bring him up to the front! Amidst much laughter, I tried in vain to remember who had been given the baby.

Chaos over, Jesus restored to his manger, we heard the story of the Shepherds read by Catherine and Lilly Bapty, family friends of ours who are a great support and encouragement in my Children's Ministry. They told the story in Sign Supported English (i.e. using sign language while they were reading). This was a real success – the children and many of the adults were captivated, with children trying to copy the shapes with their hands while they were listening.

Our Curate Ross, accompanied by his six-month-old son Finan, led the prayers and talked to us about the charity we were supporting (St Salvador's

food bank), and we ended with ‘Hark the Herald’. Thank you to everyone who took part, helped behind the scenes or listened to me endlessly repeating my ideas out loud in the month leading up to the service!

Christmas Market

At the Christmas Market we had live music in the church all afternoon performed by members of Holy Cross and St Salvador’s; teas and coffees being sold from the kitchen in the hall; and carol singing on the outdoor stage. Over 400 people came through the church – probably closer to 500. I’d expanded the children’s area to fill the whole of the south transept and had put out toys, books and paper and pens. It was full all afternoon.

It was particularly heartening to see so many children coming into the church to explore, often dragging slightly nervous-looking parents and grandparents with them, but equally often just with their friends. Brother Joe’s ‘fancy dress costume’ (i.e. his Franciscan habit!) attracted a fair bit of interest and led to good conversations, and the children were particularly excited to discover that the person playing the organ was a teenager: ‘Look, it’s a *boy* playing the organ!’. I heard similar comments about our flautist, who is a university student. I hadn’t thought about the impact that seeing a young musician might have on the visiting children. I had simply invited these musicians because they’re good! It started me thinking about representation – how important it is that children and young people see people like themselves at church, so that they know they can come as themselves, as they are now. I don’t have the answers yet but who knows, one of the children who stopped to listen might be inspired to take up the flute or organ themselves... or see that they too can be part of a church community.

At the end of the afternoon, as we were beginning to tidy up and trying to usher people out, a group of children arrived and asked if they could ‘be a choir’. They set themselves up in front of the altar and belted out Christmas songs while one of them filmed. It was the perfect end to the afternoon.

Concerts

I plan to run another series of Sunday afternoon family concerts this year, probably on the fourth Sunday of the month from March to November. Four of the concerts will be given by musicians from the charity Live Music Now Scotland, who support young professional musicians. The other four concerts will be provided by musicians from Holy Cross and St Salvador’s.

Live Music Now Scotland are in the process of applying for funding for their four concerts, and I am looking into the possibility of local sponsorship for our four concerts. Watch this space.

Finally...

There is much more I could say. As I write, Toddler Church starts again tomorrow. I have plans for a Messy Church session just before Easter. I'm starting a Children's Ministry e-newsletter (if you'd like to receive this, please let me know via families.hce@gmail.com), and I'm making contact with local schools and children's groups and organisations to invite them to visit the church. However, I will stop typing now or Margaret (our Editor) may ban me from writing for future magazines!

My final paragraph is a request for your prayers:

- for the projects I've written about above
- for the children and young people in our local area
- and for the continued strengthening of relationships between the Holy Cross community and the families who live around us.

Izzy Armstrong-Holmes
Children's Minister



ESMÉ RANDALL

Address by the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes at her funeral

+ 'Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions.'

And in the ballrooms of those mansions there will be dancing and I have a feeling that Esmé will be at home there. Esmé was a lady of strong opinions. If she didn't like a hymn tune she would tell me at the door after the service. She didn't like eulogies at funerals and so, in agreement with Bill, this will be a sermon on these great words of Jesus in John's gospel. Why might Esmé feel at home in the Kingdom of Heaven?

My first encounter with her was at the back door of the Rectory just when we had arrived from Cornwall in the midst of winter. Esmé, accompanied by Bill, was bearing a very fine fish pie to welcome us, thinking we wouldn't have had time to settle in. What a thoughtful gesture, and what a fine fish pie. Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven. Elegance, beautiful clothes, often commented upon by my little daughter who enjoyed her company, and culinary skill were things we saw. We still feel grief at her sudden death but there was a grace in it, after a lovely evening with friends, eating delightful food she had

cooked. The Bible tells us heaven is a banquet of good food and fine wine, somewhere Esmé would feel at home.

Esmé was also a poet. We agreed once that she was more Pam Ayres and John Betjeman than ‘high falutin’ T.S. Eliot, and it was poetry from life. A book of her poetry raised over £1,000 for Holy Cross. Hers was a faith ‘quietly observed’, as I have been told, and it was one that moved gently from nature and people to spiritual things, as we have heard in the poem, ‘Can you hear the angels sing?’. There is another fine poem written for my predecessor’s retirement which mentions the time he left his microphone on at the wrong time, but I will spare Douglas’s blushes. Another poem ‘Care Homes’ has more of an edge: ‘I’d rather die /than be in a home /where people snore away the day /in a world of their own’. We cannot choose the manner of our departing but Esmé got her wish and we pray that she is now not snoring but singing with the angels.

But do angels dance in heaven? One word used to describe God, *perichoresis*, is linked by modern commentators to the Greek word for dance, so perhaps there is dancing in those heavenly mansions. Dancing in different forms was so much part of Esmé’s life. The daughter of a war hero and a mother who died when she was very young, after boarding school she trained with the Scottish Ballet School under the leading teacher in Scotland at the time, Marjorie Middleton, and dancing and teaching remained part of her life.

Bill told me that they first met at the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society when he was 18. Esmé was ‘radiant in the room’ and he never forgot her. When, ten years later, he came north again to be a children’s social worker in Craigmillar, Pilton and Wester Hailes, he looked her up, by May they were engaged and in October they were married here at Holy Cross. The hymn ‘Praise my soul’, which we will sing later, was sung at the wedding. The dancing continued and, as a teacher of Scottish Country dancing at Edinburgh schools, Esmé was once described as ‘an institution’. She and Bill also took part in amateur dramatics at St Columba’s, Blackhall where she is remembered as a remarkable Lady Bracknell.

As I said at the beginning, Esmé first came here in 1953 which I believe made her our most senior but not oldest member. She recalls her first years at Holy Cross in a poem on the Youth Fellowship written for the centenary of the church in 2013: ‘In 1953 I came /first to Evensong /and afterwards to join the youth /for talks, tea and ping pong’. A loving picture of the times, it ends ‘The Mothers’ Union in a fuss /because their teaspoons disappeared /they always put the blame on us /we thought it really rather weird. /Our new hall and car park /have covered all the grass /where once we played at rounders /

and shared so many laughs. /I look back on my memories /among that happy throng /at Holy Cross on Sundays /after Evensong'.

'In my Father's house there are many mansions' and our churches on earth are shadow images of the heavenly courts in which we get ready for the life to come – perhaps the angels play rounders and the archangels take the place of the Mothers' Union. It is so appropriate that we are here today as the stones of this building carry the memories of Esmé's life both joyful and sad. Here the funeral of their son Nicholas took place after his tragic early death and here I blessed them on their golden wedding anniversary.

'Grief is the price we pay for love', as the late Queen famously said, and grief is a great mystery but not so great as the mystery of love. The hymns chosen for this service carry themes of brightness and angels, as is appropriate for Esmé – she once told me off for being too gloomy and religious at a funeral! When Jesus said, 'I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also', the way to that place, that mansion, lies through the Cross, the way of the dead. Jesus is the way, and also the truth, and the life. The way of the Cross, the way of grief, leads to the joy and brightness of the resurrection. As Christians we embrace both.

So today we pray that Esmé, after the dance of life, may enter the heavenly mansions and be one of 'Ye blessed souls at rest, who ran this earthly race'. We also stand with Bill and support him, and each other, in our sadness. One good thing amidst the sadness has been the way people from church and community have rallied round. Bill says thanks for the many letters and calls he has received. I have only touched on a few aspects of Esmé's life in this address, which is not a eulogy. We can share memories afterwards at Ye Olde Inn but now, as we prepare to say farewell, let us sing one of Esmé's bright hymns.

HYMN All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty
Who has made all things well.

KALENDAR and READINGS February 2023

Wednesday 1st February – Bride of Kildare, Abbess, c.525 – **Eucharist**
10.30 a.m.

Readings: Hebrews 12.4-7,11-15 Psalm 103.1-2,13-18 Mark 6.1-6

Thursday 2nd February (the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is kept on the following Sunday) – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 3rd February – Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Scandinavia, 865 – **Toddler Church 10.30 a.m. – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.**

Saturday 4th February – Modan, Bishop, c.750

**Sunday 5th February – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
(Candlemas) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. (Trans. from 2nd)**

Readings: Malachi 3.1-4 Psalm 84.1-7 or 24.7-40
 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40

Wednesday 8th February – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Genesis 2.4b-9,15-17 Psalm 104.25,28-31 Mark 7.14-23

Thursday 9th February – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 10th February – Scholastica, Abbess, c.543 – Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.

Saturday 11th February – Our Lady of Lourdes

**Sunday 12th February – SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY –
Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Sirach 15.15-20 | Corinthians 3.1-9 Psalm 119.1-8 | Matthew 5.21-27

Tuesday 14th February – Cyril and Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs

Wednesday 15th February – Thomas Bray, Priest and Missionary, 1730 –
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Genesis 8.6-13,20-22 Psalm 116.10-17 Mark 8.22-26

Thursday 16th February – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 17th February – no Toddler Church

Saturday 18th February – Colmán of Lindisfarne, Bishop, 676, third anniversary of the institution of Stephen Holmes as Rector of Holy Cross

Sunday 19th February - SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT -

Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Exodus 24.12-18 Psalm 2 or 99
2 Peter 1.16-21 Matthew 17.1-9

ASH WEDNESDAY 22nd February – Eucharist 10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Readings: Joel 2.1-2,12-17 Psalm 51.1-18
2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

Thursday 23rd February – Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop and Martyr, c.156 – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**Friday 24th February – Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.****Sunday 26th February – LENT 1 – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Genesis 2.15-17,3.1-7 Psalm 32
Romans 5.12-19 Matthew 4.1-11

Wednesday 1st March – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Jonah 3.1-10 Psalm 51.1-2,11-13 Luke 11.29-32

Sunday 5th March – LENT 2 – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Genesis 12.1-4a Psalm 121
Romans 4.1-5, 13-17 John 3.1-17

WORSHIP

Our usual weekly services are:

Sunday **9.00 a.m. Eucharist (traditional language)**
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.

Friday **10.30 a.m. Toddler Church (in term time)**

First Friday in the month, 2 p.m. Healing Eucharist with anointing

Any variations are noted in the Kalendar.

