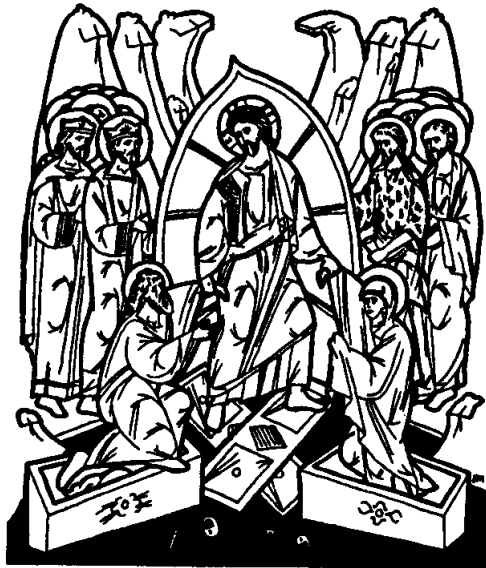


# Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

APRIL 2023



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

By the time you get this magazine we will be in Holy Week, following Jesus through his sufferings to his death and journey through the way of the dead to resurrection and new life on Easter morn. Each year 'the green blade riseth', new life springs from the tomb of the earth. Death is part of life but so is resurrection. Later in this magazine we are helped to speak about death with children in the light of Easter – my experience is that children are often better at talking about death than adults! Recently I met some children with magnifying glasses 'looking for signs of the spring'. That's something we can do too, both in the woods and gardens and in our own lives.

The best thing to help us is the Liturgy, our worship. I began with a hymn and encourage you to join us for as many of our Holy Week and Easter services as you can – especially the three-day Triduum of Maundy Thursday at 7.30 p.m., Good Friday at 3 p.m. and the Vigil at St Salvador's at 9.30 p.m. on Holy Saturday. This year there will also be an excellent and moving service on the Saturday before Palm Sunday at 7 p.m. with Passiontide music sung by the young professional singers of our own occasional choir, the *Cantores Sanctae Crucis* (Holy Cross Singers). Times and details of all services are on page 3 and in the Kalendar on page 11, and on our website.

The Passiontide service is a joint one with Cramond Kirk, as is the service on Monday in Holy Week at Cramond Kirk at 7 p.m. during which I have, by some Presbyterian trickery, allowed myself to be interviewed by the minister, the Revd Ian Gilmour. Cramond Kirk and Davidson's Mains Parish Church are both in our parish and all the local ministers have regular meetings.

The clergy of Davidson's Mains, Fr Jamie, Revd Dan and myself, decided that Holy Week is a time when we don't need extra services as we are challenged to go deeper into the mystery of Christ crucified and risen within our liturgy. We are also clear that everyone is welcome at all our services. Pentecost, however, is a time when the Church goes out to the world under the impulse of the Holy Spirit. We therefore plan a joint open-air service at 3 p.m. on Pentecost down by the Boardwalk Café on Silverknowes Promenade, as a public witness to which everyone will be invited.

I was pleased to be invited to preach again at Cargilfield School in early March, and the headmaster and I are keen to keep the historic links between us alive. I saw the building named after our organist emeritus, Vaughan Townhill, who was head of music at the school, and I'm glad that Vaughan and his son David, our current organist, are playing a prominent role in their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The day I went to Cargilfield I also visited St Salvador's where Ross, our curate, was giving a very lively tour of the church to one of the classes from Stenhouse Primary. We should pray for our local schools. In both places the children desire to learn about our faith and asked some very deep theological questions about God and Jesus, life and death.

Finally, as I was thinking about life coming out of death at Easter, I was reminded of something Jean Williams said at our AGM last year. We were talking about the financial challenges facing Holy Cross and I had noted how generous many of you are in your regular giving and donations. Jean stood up and, with her customary frankness, said that the best gift we could give to Holy Cross is to remember the church in our wills. If Holy Cross has helped you and been part of your life, have you made sure Holy Cross will benefit from your generosity after death? Such legacies can make a massive difference to our life and mission – the price of a three-bedroom semi-detached house in Silverknowes is five times what we spend in a year to run Holy Cross. Speak to your lawyer or to Colin Mair, our treasurer, if you would like help by doing this. In good stewardship we have responsibilities under God to our families, the Church and the poor.

A very happy Easter to you and your families and friends, from us all at the Rectory,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

With love in Christ,



## HOLY CROSS DIRECTORY 2023 – ERRATA

Apologies to all concerned. Please note:

**Sunday Coffee** The organiser is Jane Allan – (not Sally and Nicole).

**Lay Representative** Andrew Vass recommends using his mobile number, not the landline. [*Numbers included in printed and emailed versions*]



## Holy Week

### THE SACRED TRIDUUM AND EASTER SERVICES

**Saturday 1st April 7 p.m.** The Passion of Jesus Christ in words and music, with Passiontide music sung by the *Cantores Sanctae Crucis*, directed by David Coney. A Holy Week version of the popular Christmas Nine Lessons and Carols to which members of other churches are invited.

**Sunday 2nd April Palm Sunday**, Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. with procession and dramatic passion.

**Monday in Holy Week, 3rd April, 7 p.m.** Joint service with Cramond Kirk (in their church), A Pilgrim Walk through Holy Week, including our Rector being interviewed by the Minister, Ian Gilmour.

**Wednesday in Holy Week, 5th April**, Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

#### The three services of the TRIDUUM:

**Maundy Thursday 6th April, Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper, 7.30 p.m.** followed by watching until midnight at the altar of repose.

**Good Friday 7th April, 3 p.m.** Liturgy of the Passion and veneration of the Cross

**Holy Saturday 8th April, the Easter Vigil for both our churches** will be at St Salvador's Church, Stenhouse at 9.30 p.m. All welcome.

**Easter Sunday 9th April**, Sung Eucharist 10.30 a.m.



## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

2nd April	Lent – no flowers
9th April	EASTER
	Please consult Sarah about donations or help.
16th April	Sarah Millée
23rd April	Peggy Farrar
30th April	?



### Flower Rota 2023

The rota is on the noticeboard. Please sign up for the Sundays when you would like to be responsible for the flowers. There are gaps throughout the year. If you need advice, consult Sarah.

If you would like to donate the flowers but cannot arrange them yourself please contact Sarah.

## St SALVADOR'S FOOD BANK

St Salvador's, Stenhouse, Food Bank is still seeing a large increase in visitors and is in need of volunteers and supplies or financial support. Non-perishable goods such as rice, pasta, cooking oil, sugar, tins of fish or meat are needed.

With costs rising, a hot meal that does not need the use of too much fuel is appreciated. They also give out nappies (larger sizes are best) and cleaning items.

We have a donations box on the bench by the door at Holy Cross. If you would like to help speak to Ross, Br Joe or the Rector (contact details inside front cover).



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14th to 20th May

**The Book Sale** at St Andrew's and St George's West will continue, with a new organiser after 50 years but much the same format. Details next month.

### **Holy Cross Church Representative – volunteer STILL needed**

At the end of Christian Aid Week, if not sooner, I shall step down as our Christian Aid representative. Please tell Stephen or me if you would like to take over. I am retiring whether or not we have a volunteer! Over to you.

*Margaret Deas*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

A question:

How do you know how much money you have left at the end of the month? 'That's easy,' you'd say, 'look at your bank statement.' This is something I do as Treasurer each month. When the statement arrives, I check the payments in and out and make sure that I have kept records for the annual accounts and audit.

Most of our expenses are regular monthly payments (gas, electricity, cleaning, rates, insurance, stipend, pension and quota) for which I have set up a Direct Debit or received an invoice. Others will be bills for occasional maintenance costs (e.g. rectory stonework, hall electrics, plumber, locksmith etc.).

I also keep records of our income for audit and to support Gift Aid claims. Almost all our income comes from congregational giving, Gift Aid and hall rentals and occasionally, grants in support of building works. Most of these are expected and predictable so there shouldn't be any surprises at the end of the month. Or so you'd think.

Over the last three months it has been difficult to know the true position for a range of reasons.

1. Sometimes the Royal Bank of Scotland chooses to alter the end of the month – something to do with bank holidays. Therefore, they considered the end of December to be the 30th and any payments made on 31st December were counted as being in January. We pay our rates and insurance on the last day of the month, so they were not shown in the December statement, and we had two of them in the January statement.
2. The Diocesan Office has changed its Direct Debit system and there was a timing issue meaning payments for stipend, pension contributions and quotas weren't taken in January and double amounts were made in February. Don't worry, the Diocese paid stipend to Revd Stephen, they just didn't claim it back from us.
3. The After School Club missed their December payment and paid double in January.
4. British Gas jumped on the bandwagon and for some inexplicable reason didn't deduct anything for gas in January and took two months' worth in February.

These pluses and minuses have now largely resolved themselves and I now have a clearer picture of our bank balance at the end of February and how that compares to expectations. On the face of it we are £7,000 worse off than predicted. This is largely due to the unexpected electrical work needed

in the church, rectory and hall to bring them up to modern safety standards as identified in the quinquennial inspection. All the bills for this have now been paid and we are expecting some grant payments towards this plus an outstanding Gift Aid claim which will significantly reduce the deficit.

This will give us a relatively clean slate when we start the Hall Renewal Project (see below). A team has been set up to coordinate fund-raising and grant applications. The aim is to complete the project without the need to use up any of our reserves. We wish the team every success in this!

*Colin Mair, Treasurer*

## **HALL RENEWAL AND BUILDINGS NEWS**

Our church buildings are the church, the hall and the rectory. These, together with the church grounds, are held by the 'custodian trustees' of the Diocese of Edinburgh in trust for the congregation, and their upkeep is the responsibility of the Vestry, whose members, in charity law, are the trustees of the congregation. Our buildings are an essential part of our mission as a Christian church and they are icons of the presence of Christ in the local community. We are very fortunate to have such a lovely church which is so visible at the centre of Davidson's Mains, and a large, bright hall which is used by many community groups.

A healthy congregation keeps its buildings in good repair and we have been particularly busy doing this in the last few years. First came the major stonework repairs to the church in 2019 and the installation of a new heating system in 2020. Who can forget the cold in the church at the time of my institution? These were significant projects brought to completion thanks to first-rate work by members of our congregation finding the right contractors, giving money and sourcing grants.

After the pandemic a significant Scottish Episcopal Church Covid Recovery grant enabled us to paint and repair the outside of the hall, build a new website and install new signage. Part of the rectory boundary wall was then discovered to be in danger of collapse and was rebuilt. Last year the architect who did the quinquennial inspection of our buildings identified other work that needed to be done, principally significant work to the rectory stonework and updating the wiring in all our buildings. Further inspection revealed the fixed wiring in and to the hall to be seriously substandard. The sub-mains to the hall also needed to be replaced before we could be given an electrical installation condition report (EICR) certificate to confirm our wiring was safe and compliant.



Three sets of quotes were obtained for each job, stonework and wiring, and the best companies offering the best prices were engaged. Oaktree Scotland has done an excellent job repointing the rectory and stabilising the chimneys which were in danger of collapse, and are currently finishing the work and will do repairs to low-level roofing where there has been water ingress. JRF Property Services did a fine job updating the wiring and boards in all our properties so that it is now fully compliant, and Oaktree Scotland dug a trench for the new sub-mains. The final cost of the electrical work was £12,288, and for the rectory work it will be £15,712. Had we used other companies the cost would have been almost double this. We have obtained grants totalling £14,089 so half the costs have been recovered, and we are very grateful to those of you who have made donations to cover the difference. This essential work has, however, used a significant proportion of our property reserve which Vestry has set at £30,000.

One final essential job remains to be done. The quinquennial inspection also identified work needed for the interior of our church hall, in addition to the wiring. The hall is not only our most significant point of contact with the local community, it also provides income without which we could not exist as a church. This **Community Hall Renewal Project** will involve painting and work on the toilets, kitchen, ceiling and floors, as well as insulation. Vestry set up a Project Group which met with buildings experts in the congregation and local community and designed the project. It was good to see new members of Holy Cross and contacts from Toddler Church and the Christmas Lights Committee contributing to this. Vestry then appointed Craig Duncan, an experienced project manager, to put together and cost the project. Vestry has also set up a Fundraising Group (Vanessa Hartley, Izzy Holmes and Gordon Kingsford-Smith [with Colin Mair and Stephen Holmes]) which is investigating grant-awarding bodies that might be willing to support this work. When we have a costed plan and some idea of grant potential we will then ask for donations and fund-raising ideas from you, the congregation.

This is a lot of work, but Holy Cross has a good track record in recent years of bringing fabric projects to completion within budget. Care for property is a sign of a Christian community that is in good health and engaged with its local community. Most of the work on managing and caring for our property is currently done by the treasurer and rector. It is not part of their job descriptions so we need a fabric convener and hall manager. If you think you could help, speak to Colin or Stephen. If you would like to help with raising funds for the Hall Renewal Project, speak to them or to one of the Fundraising Group.

*Stephen Holmes*

## INDIA UPDATE

Thank you all for your good wishes. Everything happened very quickly in the end and I headed off to India on 9th February returning on 9th March.

I'll write more fully next month, but I thought people would like to know that I met a very special person while there. The Revd Sham P Thomas, who was at Holy Cross around 20 years ago, his wife Jolly and daughter Shyama invited me to Bangalore to meet Shyama and her husband Danish's baby daughter Evana (pronounced Eevanna) who was just three weeks old. They all send their love to their friends at Holy Cross.

The proud mother and grandparents are in the pictures.

*Sally*



## A PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

Loving God,  
your Son told his disciples to become like little children.  
Lead us to work for the welfare and protection of all young people.  
May we respect their dignity that they may flourish in life  
following the example of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### Talking to children about death

Easter in the church can be a tricky time if you're not comfortable talking about death. It can seem a particularly difficult topic to discuss with children but, on the whole, they aren't scared of death. They are interested in death and usually perfectly happy to talk about it, because they have no preconceptions. They also like to ask questions, which can make it all the more difficult if we are uncomfortable talking about death!

If you have young children in your life, here are a few ideas for talking about death and the Easter story.

1. Follow their lead and focus on the element of the story or situation they have chosen, rather than trying to 'zoom out' and tell them the whole story. They might ask you about certain words, phrases or images.
2. Focus on emotions to put the story into a context they can understand. One young child, for example, looked at a pietà and told me that Jesus looked sad, but it was OK because his mummy Mary was giving him a cuddle.
3. Books – I have two recommendations: For very young children, *The Easter Bible Storybook* by Maggie Barfield; it is simple and repetitive, and has lovely illustrations. For slightly older children, once they understand emotions and facial expressions, *A Very Happy Easter* by Tim Thornborough; the idea is that you and the child imitate the facial expressions as a way of entering into the story.
4. When talking about death in any context, use the words 'death' and 'died', rather than euphemisms such as 'passed away', 'passed on', 'went to sleep' or 'we lost...'. Children need clarity and look to us to provide it, particularly when they are experiencing something new or seeing the adults around them behaving differently. Euphemisms can confuse or even scare them. If we use the phrase 'went to sleep', for example, they will naturally connect it to what they and their loved ones do every night. It can make bedtime a terrifying experience!
5. It's OK to say that you don't know. You can still offer the reassurance they need. 'I don't know exactly where grandad is now, but I do know that God is looking after him.' Or, 'I don't know how Jesus came back to life, but isn't it amazing? God is so powerful!'
6. Children talk to and about the dead. They will happily chatter to granny

as if she's in the room, even if she died long before they were born. Let them chatter. Children process their thoughts out loud and are interested in feelings and relationships – love – rather than facts. It can be tempting to correct them, but often, entering into the fluency of their relationship with the dead can teach us adults a lot and help us process our own grief. I recommend *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst which explains that love can exist over long distances, including between the living and the dead.

7. Children love ritual. If they want to remember someone who has died, you could help them light a candle, draw a picture, make a posy of flowers, or say some simple words in front of a photograph.

This month I would ask your prayers for the children in our local community. That they may encounter the Easter story and be allowed to ask questions. The seeds of faith can be planted in the smallest exchange. In particular, please pray for the children who come to Toddler Church, who challenge me every week with their questions. That the grown-ups in their lives (including me) may be given the grace to tend the first shoots of their faith.

*Izzy Armstrong-Holmes, Children's Minister*  
[families.hce@gmail.com](mailto:families.hce@gmail.com) 07464 611553



## 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.

Holy Week and Easter services are on page 3.

## KALENDAR and READINGS APRIL 2023

*Holy Week and Easter services are detailed on page 3.*

**Saturday 1st April** – Gilbert of Caithness, Bishop, 1245 – 7 p.m. **The Passion of Jesus Christ in words and music.**

**Sunday 2nd April – 6th SUNDAY OF LENT (Palm Sunday) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. with blessing of palms**

*Collect:* Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender love towards the human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Christ our Lord, Amen

*Readings:* Isaiah 50.4-9a                      Psalm 31.9-16  
                  Philippians 2.5-11                 Matthew 26.14-27.66

**Monday in Holy Week, 3rd April – 11.30 a.m. – Chrism Mass in the Cathedral – 7 p.m. – joint service with Cramond Kirk in their church, A Pilgrim Walk through Holy Week.**

**Wednesday in Holy Week, 5th April – 10.30 a.m. Eucharist**

*Readings:* Isaiah 50.4-9a                      Psalm 70  
                  Hebrews 12.1-3                             John 13.21-32

**MAUNDY THURSDAY 6th April** – the beginning of the EASTER TRIDUUM: **Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper 7.30 p.m. followed by stripping of the altar and watching until midnight at the altar of repose.** (*No Zoom Evening Prayer*)

*Collect:* God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may we receive the benefits of his Passion, the new life of his Resurrection, and the grace to love as he loves us; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Readings:* Exodus 12.1-4(5-10)11-14             Psalm 116.1-2,12-19  
                  1 Corinthians 11.23-26                     John 13.1-17,31b-35

**GOOD FRIDAY 7th April – 3 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion and veneration of the Cross**

*The death of the Lord. The sacraments are not celebrated today. There is no Toddler Church or healing service.*

*Collect:* Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Readings:* Isaiah 52.13-53.12                      Psalm 22  
                  Hebrews 10.16-25                             John 18.1-19.42

**HOLY SATURDAY 8th April – the Easter Vigil for both our churches will be at St Salvador’s Church, Stenhouse at 9.30 p.m.** All welcome.

*The descent of the Lord to the dead. The sacraments are not celebrated today.*

*Collect:* Almighty, ever-living God, whose Only-begotten Son descended to the realms of the dead, and rose from there to glory, grant that your faithful people who were buried with him in baptism, may, by his resurrection, obtain eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Collect for the Vigil:* O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord’s resurrection: stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption given to us in baptism; that, being renewed both in body and mind, we may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

**Sunday 9th April – EASTER DAY – Sung Eucharist 10.30 a.m.** (no 9 a.m. Eucharist)

*The Resurrection of the Lord.*

*Collect:* Lord of all life and power, through the mighty resurrection of your Son you overcame the old order of sin and death and opened to us the gate of Everlasting Life: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Readings:* Acts 10.34-43                      Psalm 118.2,14-24  
                  Colossians 3.1-4                     Matthew 28.1-10

*Easter Week is celebrated as if each day is Easter Day.*

**Wednesday in Easter Week, 12th April – 10.30 a.m. Eucharist**

*Readings:* Acts 3.1-10                      Psalm 105.1-9                      Luke 24.13-35

**Thursday in Easter Week, 13th April – 5 p.m. Evening Prayer on Zoom**

Friday in Easter Week, 14th April – no Toddler Church

**Sunday 16th April – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Low Sunday) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Collect:* Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Readings:* Acts 2.14a,22-32                      Psalm 16  
                  I Peter 1.3-9                                      John 20.19-31

Monday 17th April – Donnán of Eigg and companions, Martyrs, c.617

**Wednesday 19th April – 10.30 a.m. Eucharist**

*Readings:* Acts 5.17-26 Psalm 34.1-8 John 3.16-21

**Thursday 20th April – Maelrubha of Applecross, Abbot, 722 – 5 p.m. Evening Prayer on Zoom**

**Friday 21st April – Anselm of Canterbury, bishop and doctor of the Church, 1109 – 10.30 a.m. Toddler Church**

**Sunday 23rd April – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Collect:* Almighty Father, in your great mercy you gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Readings:* Acts 2.14a,36-41 Psalm 116.1-3(4-9)10-17  
I Peter 1.17-23 Luke 24.13-35

Tuesday 25th April – MARK, Evangelist

**Wednesday 26th April – Albert Laurie, Priest, of Old St Paul's, 1937 – 10.30 a.m. Eucharist**

*Readings:* Acts 8.1b-8 Psalm 66.1-6 John 6.52-59

**Thursday 27th April – Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894 – 5 p.m. Evening Prayer on Zoom**

**Friday 28th April – 10.30 a.m. Toddler Church**

Saturday 29th April – Catherine of Siena, Mystic, Doctor of the Church, 1380

**Sunday 30th April – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Collect:* Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.

*Readings:* Acts 2.42-47 Psalm 23  
I Peter 2.19-25 John 10.1-10

**Wednesday 3rd May**

*Readings:* Acts 12.24-13.5a Psalm 67 John 12.44-50

**Sunday 7th May – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Readings:* Acts 7.55-60 Psalm 31.1-5,15-16  
I Peter 2.2-10 John 14.1-14

