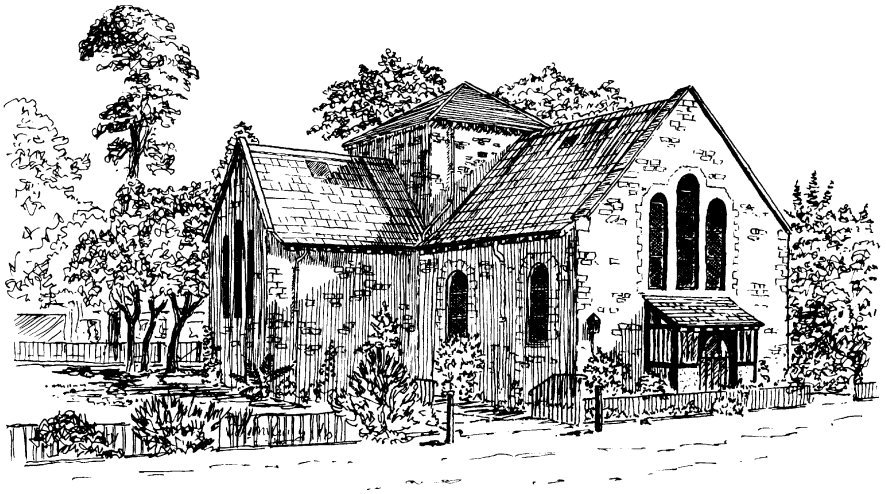


Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

MAY 2023



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Rector The Revd Dr Stephen Holmes
The Rectory, 18 Barnton Gardens, EH4 6AF
Tel: 07584 091870 and 629 1966
Email: rector.hce@gmail.com
Day off: Monday

Curate The Revd Dr Ross Jesmont
34 Battlefield Drive, Musselburgh EH21 7DF
Tel: 07535 716243 Email: curate.sshc@gmail.com
Day off: Monday

Assistant Priest Br Joseph Emmanuel SSF
Tel: 07923 432820
Email: josephemmanuelssf@franciscans.org.uk

The clergy team serves Holy Cross and St Salvador's, Stenhouse.

Children's Minister Mrs Izzy Holmes
Tel: 07464 611553 Email: families.hce@gmail.com

Rector's Warden Mr Alan Kirkpatrick

People's Warden Mrs Sally Mair

Vestry Secretary Mrs Nicole Elvin

**Treasurer and
Gift Aid Secretary** Mr Colin Mair

Magazine Editor Mrs Margaret Deas
margaretandeas@btinternet.com

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

Website www.holycrossedinburgh.org

Twitter [@HolyCrossEdin](https://twitter.com/HolyCrossEdin)

Facebook [@HolyCrossEdinburgh](https://www.facebook.com/HolyCrossEdinburgh)

YouTube [Holy Cross Church Edinburgh](https://www.youtube.com/HolyCrossChurchEdinburgh) **Instagram** [@holycrossedinburgh](https://www.instagram.com/holycrossedinburgh)

Bank account Royal Bank of Scotland
Sort code 83-18-47

Name: Church of the Holy Cross
Account number 00170278

Registered Charity No SC015766

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

Happy Easter, for Easter is one great feast that lasts 50 days and covers almost the whole of this month. Fifty days of unremitting joy! We had a great Holy Week and Easter at Holy Cross and St Salvador's with larger than usual numbers attending our services – well over 600 during that week in our two churches at a rough calculation, if we include the Syrian Orthodox Liturgy at Holy Cross and the Polish Easter Vigil blessing at St Salvador's. For me, the highlights were the foot washing on Maundy Thursday, the Liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday, and the joint Easter Vigil at St Salvador's where members of both our churches celebrated the resurrection of Christ with songs and readings, fire and water, and the bread and wine of the first Eucharist of Easter. It truly is the greatest service of the year!

We teach by symbols more than words and this year the austerity of Lent was followed by an amazing display of flowers in the church. Thanks to the flower team and to all who served, welcomed people, read, had their feet washed and generally helped the ceremonies run smoothly. A key team at the centre of all this was our sacristans, Jean Williams and Neville Long. At times I thought they had moved into the vestry, they did so much work during the Triduum (Maundy Thursday to Easter)!

Numbers are not everything, even if the number of people at the Easter Vigil meant the Rector had prepared only enough booklets for half those present. It is good that our church is growing, but the most important thing is our faithfulness to the Christian faith revealed to the Apostles and found in the Catholic Church, of which our Scottish Episcopal Church is part. At the heart of our faith is Jesus Christ who died on the cross and rose to a new life. A life in which we share by baptism and the Eucharist. This Easter faith in the resurrection is the hope we have to share with the increasingly secular world around us – that death, pain and evil don't have the last word is good news indeed.

Later in this magazine you will see news of a series of four children's concerts at Holy Cross. These are the result of a partnership between us and the charity Live Music Now Scotland, which was founded by Sir Yehudi Menuhin and had as its patron Prince Charles until he succeeded to the throne. This partnership started when we got some of their young musicians to sing and play for us during the pandemic, when congregations were not allowed to sing. Last year's children's concerts were a great success and this year we are hosting them here and at St Salvador's. The songs will be in Gaelic, Scots and English and there will be plenty of chances to join in. If you

have young children (or can borrow some!), come along and enjoy the music.

Our world can seem far from the good news of Jesus. There is war in Ukraine and Sudan, corruption in high places, great poverty in our rich nation and a disdain for Christianity which came to the surface in the coverage of the recent SNP leadership election. But an event this month will show that Christianity is not just a private hobby of an eccentric minority.

The coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will show that, despite all appearances to the contrary, Christ is present at the heart of our society. Although governance is done by our elected representatives, our Head of State is a divinely anointed Christian Monarch. The coronation takes place within a Eucharist and the newly-crowned King receives the body and blood of Christ, as we do each week, as a sign of his reliance on God. He is also anointed with Holy Oil made in the Holy Land and consecrated by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. This anointing of a King as a sign of God's blessing is found in the Old Testament and has been part of coronations in these islands since St Columba anointed King Aedán mac Gabráin of Dál Riata in the sixth century. At Holy Cross we have our own Holy Oils, used in baptism and healing and consecrated by the Bishop of Edinburgh. Together with the Holy Eucharist they are kept in the aumbry behind the golden door at the east end of the church. The coronation is intimately connected with what we do in our own church.

King Charles is a serious Christian with a deep and mystical faith. He has made a number of retreats with the monks of the Holy Mountain of Athos in Greece. His passionate concern for the environment and for the underprivileged springs from this faith. In addition to having the Holy Oil consecrated by the Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, he has received a relic of the True Cross from the Pope and had it encased in a silver Celtic Cross which will be carried before him at the coronation. As with the funeral of the late Queen Elizabeth II, at the coronation our faith, and our way of expressing it as Anglicans, will again be before the eyes of millions.

So, enjoy the coronation. We will be praying for our new King the day after at our Sunday services. There are lots of different views of the monarchy as an institution. I'd much rather have a constitutional monarch than a superannuated politician as president, but whatever your views, do watch the coronation as a precious witness to our Christian faith and pray for our King.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

With love in Christ,

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



GOD SAVE THE KING

We have no special 'Coronation Event' planned, but we will be praying for King Charles on Sunday 7th May, and toasting him and Queen Camilla at our after-church coffee.

ASCENSION DAY
THURSDAY 18th MAY
EUCCHARIST 10.30 a.m.
Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.



ROGATION SUNDAY 21st MAY
Procession and blessing of the garden after 10.30 a.m. service



THE DAY OF PENTECOST
SUNDAY 28th MAY
JOINT SERVICE
of the three Davidson's Mains Churches
3 p.m.
SILVERKNOWES PROMENADE
(near the Boardwalk Café)

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to everyone involved in making the church beautiful for Easter.

| | |
|----------|------------|
| 7th May | Jane Allan |
| 14th May | ? |
| 21st May | ? |
| 28th May | Pentecost |



Flower Rota 2023

The rota is on the noticeboard. As you can see, there are gaps! Please sign up for the Sundays when you would like to be responsible for the flowers. If you need advice, consult Sarah.

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

THE TREASURER'S TALE

Since last month's Treasurer's Report, when I said we were £7,000 down against budget, things have taken a large step (well actually two or three steps) for the better. By the end of March, we had closed the gap to £2,000 thanks to some very generous donations from the congregation and receipt of a grant from the Edinburgh Diocese St Andrew Fund towards Rectory maintenance work.

My own activity as Treasurer in the past month has been varied and it is a great relief to have completed two important tasks. I have completed our triennial report to the Pensions Regulator at the Department for Work and Pensions in which I have solemnly confirmed that we are paying pension contributions to ensure that our Rector will be able to retire when he reaches pension age. I have finally submitted our claim to HMRC for Gift Aid refunds for the past nine months. This allows us to reclaim the tax paid from donations by the congregation.

I am in the final stages of preparing to send our contribution to the Bishop's Lent Appeal and I am also still receiving donations to the Ukraine appeal. Our giving to others is an important part of our church mission, so thank you to all who have given and who continue to give generously. As always, I encourage people to give online whenever possible and to sign up to Gift Aid. I will confirm next month how much we have received in the most recent refund from HMRC; I know it is a substantial amount. With this in mind, I am currently updating our Gift Aid records, so you may receive a form from me in the near future.

Thank you in advance...

Colin

THE St SALVADOR'S FOOD BANK

The 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).

FAMILY CONCERTS 'traditional tunes for tiny people'

free interactive concerts
for 0–5s (ish!) and their grown-ups
with musicians from Live Music Now Scotland



2 p.m. last Sunday of the month April–July:



30th April
28th May
25th June
30th July



Sunday 28th May: Josie Duncan, a favourite with local north Edinburgh families, a mix of songs to join in with, in Scots and Gaelic

No need to book. Concerts are free but donations are welcome towards refurbishing our community hall.

For more information contact Izzy, Children's Minister: 07464 611553 families.hce@gmail.com



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 9th September, Birthday of Our Lady, Patronal Feast of our Jacobite Syrian Orthodox congregation of St Mary with procession

Saturday 16th September, Vigil of the Holy Cross, Liturgy with the *Cantores Sanctae Crucis*

Sunday 17th September, Holy Cross Day, Patronal Feast of our congregation



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14th to 20th May

BOOK SALE

St Andrew's and St George's West, George Street
Saturday 13th May 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday 15th to Friday 19th May 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.
(late opening to 7 p.m. on Thursday)

Books of all kinds, antiques and collectables, sheet music, pictures, toys and games, and much more... Undercroft Café open as usual.

Donations for sale may be handed in at the church from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday 8th to Wednesday 10th May.

QUIZ AID

Cramond Kirk is holding a Quiz Evening on Thursday 18th May at 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.. Tickets £5 per person including nibbles and a glass of wine (you can pay on the night). Make up a team of four to six people, or go alone and they'll find you a team to join. For further information and to book your place contact Gillian Hewitt at gh@blueyonder.co.uk or on 332 2788, or email the Kirk Office at office@cramondkirk.org.uk.

Holy Cross Church Representative – still looking for a volunteer!

At the end of Christian Aid Week I am retiring as church representative, whether or not we have a volunteer! Over to you.

Margaret Deas

SECMA – THE END OF AN ERA

A letter from Gill Campbell, Convenor of SECMA Central Committee

Founded in 1875 on Christian principles by a small group of women, the aims of SECMA (the Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association) as it became known, are the relief of poverty overseas, the promotion of health, and the advancement of education and sustainable community development, mainly in the support of women and children.

However, the future of SECMA has been under review over the past year since the long-standing secretary, Hilary Blyth, gave notice that she would be retiring.

This review has highlighted that the way the charity runs is inefficient with a



high proportion of time and financial expenditure taken up with administration. An updated system, with a realistic salary for a secretary, office rent and costs, and the creation of a viable internet presence would cost several times more than the charity receives per annum.

This means that, to run the charity in the 21st century, expenses would need to come from SECMA's invested reserves. In contrast to this increase in expense the membership has declined, with little or no new support coming from congregations, and many Scottish Episcopal churches and dioceses have chosen to support overseas projects directly.

Over the years SECMA has lost much of its direct personal contact with projects, and in more recent funding requests we can only provide a small portion of the projects' needs. SECMA's roots were groundbreaking and much valued over past decades, but now there are many other Christian charities funding the same types of projects that meet SECMA's aims, and these are well furnished to meet modern day standards and visibility.

Taking into account SECMA's current operating systems and, as the money donated to SECMA over past decades was given to the relief of poverty and to improve lives and not to support administration, the committee has agreed, by unanimous vote, that the charity should be dissolved, with the funds being dispersed to other organisations which share SECMA's aims and values.

SECMA will honour long-term commitments already made and will still meet funding requests made directly over the next few months. All projects currently and recently receiving funding from SECMA will be notified of the changes in advance of dissolution.

I understand that this may come as a disappointment but hope you appreciate that dissolution will release the full potential of the funds SECMA holds to make a significant and long-term contribution to improve the lives of thousands of women, children and communities overseas who face extreme poverty.

Dissolution will progress as outlined in the SECMA constitution (2020) with close adherence to legal requirements and OSCR regulations.

SECMA may be applauded for its long life of nearly 150 years, giving support to projects overseas, but now it has the opportunity to 'pass on the baton'.

Thank you for all your support in the past and, in anticipation, for your understanding now.

INDIA REVISITED

As many of you know I have been visiting India since 1997, initially as a representative of the Scottish Episcopal Cursillo Movement and since 2004 as a part of my professional life. Before I retired I was depute headteacher at The Royal Blind School in Edinburgh with responsibility for the campus for children with complex needs as well as a visual impairment. In 2007 I took six months' leave from my teaching post and spent this time in Tirunelveli in the southern state of Tamil Nadu at a school for children with learning disabilities. While there I started a group for preschool children to give support to them and to their parents. I worked with children aged from three months to school age in this group with another teacher and support staff. We were aware that these children would not be able to go to school as their needs could not be met so wanted to support them as much as possible while they were small enough to be brought to school. I never learned Tamil, but fortunately this area has a large proportion of English speakers and as my expertise is in non-verbal communication we managed very well. Smiling is an international language!

I have built strong relationships with staff and pupils in the school over the last 20 years and have managed to go and work in the school as a friend for a month most years, but Covid-19 stopped that.

In the January magazine I said that I was trying to make up my mind about going, and having said that, everything suddenly happened very quickly – I got my visa on 23rd January and flew to India on 9th February.

I spent my usual few days on the coast in the neighbouring state of Kerala. My initial impressions were good. I met people I knew in the shops and cafes at Kovalam. Many recognised me and greeted me as an old friend, asking me whether I was going to my usual school in Tamil Nadu. I was quite taken aback to be remembered in such a busy tourist resort after a three-year absence.

I hired a car and driver to take me to Tirunelveli – it is only 150 kilometres (80 miles) away but around a four-hour drive. We were on fairly major Indian roads, but there are constant hold ups and diversions. Several times I found myself map-reading on Google maps for the driver!

When I got to Tirunelveli, I went straight to the place I was staying, a guest room in the Diocesan Home for elderly deaf ladies. I've stayed there many times before. The room is quite basic, with steel beds and very hard coir mattresses. It has air conditioning as well as ceiling fans and its own toilet and washing facilities – although they have taken out the shower since I was last

there. I am very independent in India and go out to local restaurants or occasionally to friends' homes for my meals. I eat what the local people eat and have school dinners! I hope I am not a trouble to the centre. I certainly feel very welcome and safe there.

My Indian friend brought round the belongings I had left there in 2020. Sheets, towels, a table lamp, plates and cutlery and a couple of extension cables. I quickly settled in and plugged in a mosquito killer.

The next day I went out for my *poori* – fried chapati with potato curry served on a banana leaf and eaten with my fingers – and coffee for breakfast and then to school. School seemed to have fewer pupils and staff since I was last there. Some children have just not come back after Covid and the system does not go and find them as it does here. Staff are paid minimal salaries, so many had found different jobs while the school was closed – they had to have money to live on.

There has been some extensive building work at the school including a new office block, which is important to maintain the perception of the school in the local community.

I was very warmly welcomed. The children love to have visitors and I was happy to see so many old friends amongst the staff.

There are around 120 pupils in the school of whom around 80 are residential and very many of them do know me well as I have been a regular visitor. I have always felt it important to keep going back, to encourage the staff, to reinforce the work I have done and show that I care.

To my sadness though the younger pupils of my preschool class have not come back since the school reopened after Covid. When I think about it, many of them have complex needs, many with weak chests; for new parents to bring a poorly toddler to a new environment when Covid is still around must be a difficult thing to do. My time was not wasted though. I worked closely with the new physiotherapist who shares the care of these children. I was able to show her the records of the type of work I had been doing and to discuss how best to take things forward. The principal is keen to restart the preschoolers too and thinks that the new academic year, which starts at the end of May, may be the time to drive things forward. We talked about producing information leaflets for the various hospitals and childcare professionals to raise awareness.

Some of the money I took with me is being used to refurbish the classroom and to replace faulty and broken equipment. There is a tendency not to throw anything away, and over the years my mantra has been that if they

would not offer something to their own child as it was broken or sharp or dirty, it should not be given to a pupil!

I had fun working with some of the older pupils. They stay at school until at least 18 and many then move on to what they call the vocational classes which provide accommodation and activities for former pupils into their 20s and 30s. These older pupils have known me most of their school life and beyond. The school has a small farm on the outskirts of town which is the base for the male students, while the young women's base is at the school.

I think the biggest change for me was a very positive one: it was the change in attitude and atmosphere in the school. In my early days there was a very strict disciplinarian atmosphere. What I noticed this year is how much this has relaxed. The children were laughing more, they were interacting with each other and with the staff. I saw children helping each other and doing things by themselves in friendship groups. That really is a very positive change and one which is down to the leadership and attitude of the staff.

I noticed this same change in the deaf centre too. I can't do BSL (Deaf sign language) but as I said I am very good at non-verbal communication. I also know some basic Makaton signs. The ladies remembered me and made me welcome. They would ask me where I was going using gesture and I would do my best to reply. They were always very interested in what I was doing and found it amusing, that like them, I washed my clothes in a bucket overnight and hung them out to dry. Whenever anybody came looking for me they would send them on. This was much less noticeable in the past.

I stayed in Tirunelveli for just over three weeks. I didn't get bitten by mosquitoes, I didn't get sun burnt and I didn't get travellers' tummy! I adapted to using a jug to pour water over my head in place of a shower and to wearing ear plugs because India is VERY noisy. I almost got used to not needing to take a cardigan when going out after dark... it's still around 29 degrees over night (35 during the day). I always forget that the reason I am cool in my room is because of the air conditioning and that when I open the door I will be in a virtual sauna!

I have been invited back. The Bishop was very welcoming. I have known him for a long time as he was pastor of the church where I attended the weekly English service during my long stay. He used to introduce me to people as a member of his congregation. That is always a good feeling.

Will I go back? I don't know. This time was different, possibly because I am older, possibly because of the changes at school – I was disappointed not to have my wee ones to work with. I felt more nervous about the trip. It was

more expensive, as is everything post Covid and Brexit. I do know I'll be welcome, that I have some wonderful friends there and that it will be hard to close the door completely.

Sally

PRAYERS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

Everlasting God,
no matter what I face today,
help me to remember you are with me, always.
Thank you for guiding me, protecting me
and holding me in your love.

God of goodness,
open my eyes to see how we plant the seeds
that hold future promise.
Open my ears to hear your call.
Open my heart to trust in your unfailing love.

Risen Jesus, we give you thanks
For nothing, not life nor death, nor anything in creation
could ever separate us from your love for us.
Kindle in our hearts your warm fire of justice
and an unwavering hope.

Amen

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.

KALENDAR and READINGS MAY 2023

Monday 1st May – SS Philip and James, Apostles

Tuesday 2nd May – Athanasius, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 373

Wednesday 3rd May – Finding of the Holy Cross – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

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

Thursday 4th May – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 5th May – 10.30 a.m. Toddler Church – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.

Saturday 6th May – THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III and QUEEN CAMILLA – St John before the Latin Gate

Sunday 7th May – **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

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

Monday 8th May – Julian of Norwich, Mystic, c.1420

Tuesday 9th May – Translation of St Andrew at St Andrews

Wednesday 10th May – Rogation Day – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**, followed by the deposition of the ashes of Mrs Esmé Randall

Readings: Acts 15.1-6 Psalm 122 John 15.1-8

Thursday 11th May – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 12th May – Thomas Rattray, Bishop, 1743 – 10.30 a.m. Toddler Church

Sunday 14th May – **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Acts 17.22-31 Psalm 66.7-18
1 Peter 3.13-22 John 14.15-21

Monday 15th May – St Matthias the Apostle (*transferred from 14th*)

Tuesday 16th May – Brendan the Voyager, Abbot of Clonfert, c.575

Wednesday 17th May – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Acts 17.15,22-18.1 Psalm 148 John 16.12-20

**Thursday 18th May – ASCENSION DAY – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.
Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Readings: Acts 1.1-11 Psalm 47 or 93
 Ephesians 1.15-23 Luke 24.44-53

Friday 19th May – 10.30 a.m. Toddler Church

Sunday 21st May – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Sunday after Ascension) – **Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. with Rogation Procession**

Readings: Acts 1.6-14 Psalm 68.1-10,33-36
 1 Peter 4.12-14;5.6-11 John 17.1-11

Tuesday 23rd May – William of Perth, Pilgrim, 1201

Wednesday 24th May – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Acts 20.28-38 Psalm 68.28-36 John 17.11b-19

Thursday 25th May – Bede the Venerable, 735 – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 26th May – Augustine of Canterbury, Apostle of the English, 604 – 10.30 a.m. Toddler Church

Sunday 28th May – THE DAY OF PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Acts 2.1-21 Psalm 104.25-35,37
 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13 John 20.19-23

Children's Concert 2 p.m. with Josie Duncan; 3 p.m. Joint service at Silverknowes Promenade

Wednesday 31st May – The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth – Eucharist 10.30am

Readings: 1 Samuel 2.1-10 Psalm 113
 Romans 12.9-16b Luke 1.39-57

Sunday 4th June – TRINITY SUNDAY

Readings: Genesis 1.1-2.4a Psalm 8
 2 Corinthians 13.11-13 Matthew 28.16-20

