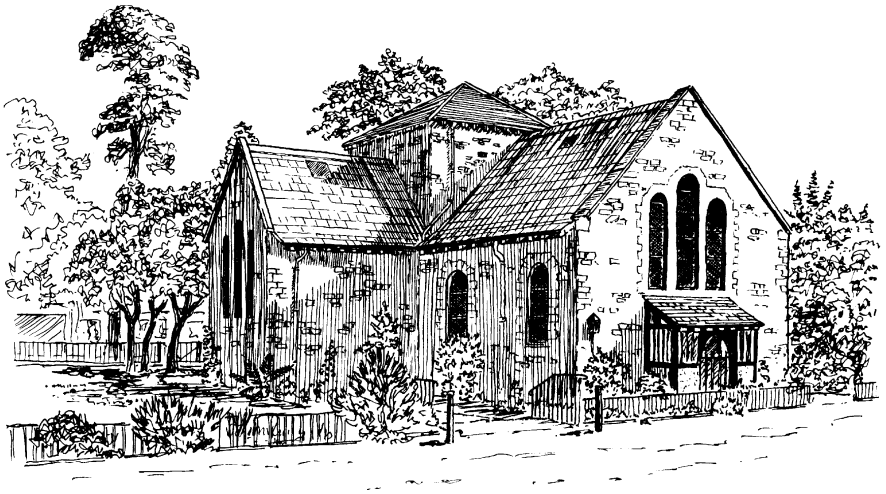


Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

JUNE 2023



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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

Website www.holycrossedinburgh.org

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

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Bank account Royal Bank of Scotland Name: Church of the Holy Cross
Sort code 83-18-47 Account number 00170278

Registered Charity No SC015766

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

I write this in the time between Ascension and Pentecost. The weather is improving and Ian Elvin, who looks after the church grounds, tells me the grass is growing as never before. June is a turning point in the Church's year when we move, via Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, from the half of the year that is full of seasons, from Advent to Easter, to that half which is all those green Sundays after Pentecost. It's sometimes called 'Ordinary Time' and it is in the ordinary daily life that we sometimes meet God.

In this second half of the year we expect that a new Franciscan Friary will be set up down the road from us in Pilton, led by our own Br Joe SSF. Our two Vestries hope that we will rekindle the old links between our two churches. Older members of Holy Cross remember following a donkey on Palm Sunday from here to St David's Pilton. I had my doubts about this but in the vestry at St David's they have a picture of the very donkey! Ross our curate will, God and the Bishop willing, be ordained priest at St Salvador's at about the time the new Friary is established. From August we will host an ordinand, Eilidh Proudfoot, from the Scottish Episcopal Institute where I teach. Eilidh will spend some months with us, sharing our life and learning how a congregation 'works' as part of her formation for priesthood.

Here at Holy Cross, Vestry agreed last year that we should get a suitable lamp to burn by the aumbry as a sign that the Lord is constantly present in our church. The fine old lamp over the altar is too far from the aumbry to do this. The aumbry is the small golden cupboard with a cross in the middle of the east wall of the church. In it are kept the Blessed Sacrament, bread and wine consecrated at the Eucharist and taken to the sick and housebound. It also contains the Holy Oils used for healing and baptism. With the altar, font and icons, the aumbry is the spiritual heart of the church and is a focus for prayer. As such it needs to be clearly marked. The new lamp will replace the two black candlesticks currently by the aumbry. Vestry has approved the purchase of a lamp in the same style and from the same period as our church, and will be seeking a grant towards the cost of £1,300 from the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament (an Anglican charity supporting devotion to the Eucharist).

This month will see the Davidson's Mains Gala, and Holy Cross is having a joint stall in Lauriston Castle gardens with the Christmas Lights Committee. Come and visit us – you may see the Rector making candy floss (I did not distinguish myself last year...). One of our aims as a church has been to reconnect with the local community, and the Gala and the Christmas Lights

and Market are the main occasions when our local community gets together.

In our church community we offer our sympathy and prayers to Janette Miller whose husband Robert died last month. Last month also saw the burial of the ashes of Esmé Randall, who was one of our longest serving members having joined in 1953. She and her husband Bill are also in our prayers. For a Christian, our community is not confined to earth, we are joined to 'angels and archangels and all the company of heaven'. It is for this reason that the departed are always in our prayers. It is also for this reason that some of you have suggested that we offer the chance to sponsor the candles for the aumbry lamp in memory of departed loved ones. We will look into this.

Like a diamond, our community has many facets. We saw one when a number of us gathered for a garden day when a lot of work was done in the church grounds. Another was when, having decided not to have a community lunch for the Coronation, people felt it needed to be celebrated and brought prosecco and cupcakes to add to the post-service coffee – thanks Sarah and Kate. That same day someone passing by commented on our lusty singing of God save the King! We look forward to a community lunch on Holy Cross Day and some similar fizzy festivities for Harvest Festival.

Finally, a brief update on our hall renewal project. We were not able to obtain quotes in time so Vestry has decided to appoint a new fundraiser and project manager, George Fyvie and Craig McLaren, and we will work with them to get the project moving. Thanks to our former fundraising team for all the preparatory work they put in. The work will thus not be done this summer.

We are also sorry to say goodbye to the Reindeer Playgroup which has not recovered from the lockdowns and has had to close. Reindeer was set up by members of the congregation, continued to be supported by the church, and looked after generations of local children. We wish the staff well for the future and are looking for another group to fill the four mornings thus vacated.

I know a number of you are having holidays around this time so enjoy the summer and may God bless you, your families and friends,

With love in Christ,

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

Interment of Ashes: Esmé Randall on 10th May



BARBECUE
SUNDAY 25th JUNE
in the church grounds
after the 10.30 service
(in the Hall if wet)

No tickets – there will be a bowl for donations.

A list of things needed will be available at Sunday coffee.

JULY/AUGUST MAGAZINE

The next magazine will be the combined July/August issue. Please ensure that the Editor receives information about events in both months, and early September, by the deadline of 19th June. And please remember – the deadline is the *final* date for handing in material, not the day when you start thinking about it!

Margaret

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to Nicole, Sarah and Yvonne for flowers in May.

4th June	Ron Gillies
11th June	?
18th June	Sheila (RIP Violet)
25th June	Yvonne Boughton



Flower Rota 2023

There are still gaps on the rota, which is on the noticeboard. Please sign up for any Sundays when you would like to be responsible for the flowers. A simple vase of flowers or something more complex are equally appreciated. There is a selection of vases in the vestry cupboard. If you would like to donate the flowers but cannot arrange them yourself please contact Sarah.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Last month I promised to update you on the Gift Aid claim. I'm delighted to report that we received £6,374.02 from HMRC. This was the return of tax paid on congregational giving between June 2022 and the end of February 2023 (9 months). This is a welcome boost to our finances and brings us into a small surplus at the end of April.

The replacement hymn boards have now been delivered and paid for – the cost of more than £1,000 was covered by the insurance claim following the shed fire.

We have a few more invoices to come for the Rectory repairs but are expecting a grant towards the electrical work soon and ultimately a grant towards the Rectory repairs. As a result, I am hopeful there are no imminent shocks to our bank balance and was able to invest a further £5,000 in the SEC Unit Trust Pool.

Two months ago, I moaned about RBS altering the end of the month. In April, they surpassed themselves – they started the month on the 3rd and finished it on the 28th.

May is going to be a long month in banking terms!

Colin Mair

May 2023

St SALVADOR'S COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE

The St Salvador's, Stenhouse, Community Food Initiative is still seeing a large increase in visitors. These may be single people, including students, or families. Some are on benefits, many work hard in low-paid jobs but cannot earn enough to buy all they need. The Initiative is in need of volunteers and supplies or financial support. Non-perishable foods such as rice, pasta, cooking oil, sugar, tea and coffee, tins of fish, meat, soup or fruit are needed. With costs rising, a hot meal that does not need the use of too much fuel is appreciated. As well as food, the Initiative gives out nappies and personal hygiene and home cleaning items.



We have a donations box on the bench by the door at Holy Cross. Your gifts are regularly taken over to Stenhouse. 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

25th June

30th July



Sunday 25th June: Kaitlin Ross and Catriona Hawksworth: participatory songs and music for all, including joining in with Gaelic and Scots.

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



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

There is a lot coming up in the next few months:

Toddler Church continues on Fridays until the end of term (23rd June).

We are trying a **Toddler Church Communion** on Friday 16th June at 11.30 a.m. as part of our usual Toddler Church session. Stephen and I have written the service specifically for young children, with lots of songs and actions, repeated responses, and including the songs and prayers we use at Toddler Church every week. Families will be welcome to watch, participate or receive Communion as they feel comfortable. We want to give people a chance to see what Communion is all about and to allow the toddlers to engage at their level. It is an experiment. If it works we can share it with other churches. If it doesn't we can chalk it up to experience!

Our **Family Concerts**, in collaboration with Live Music Now Scotland, continue on the last Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. until the end of July.

We are sharing a stall with the Christmas Lights Committee at the **Davidson's Mains Children's Gala** at Lauriston Castle on Saturday 17th June. There will be candy floss and a Splat the Santa game. The idea is to

raise money for the Christmas lights and market, and to give us (Holy Cross) the chance to meet more families and talk about who we are and what we do.

I will be running a number of activities for families in July, during the **school holidays**. I'll repeat the 'Holiday Toddlers' sessions I ran in Holy Week (play, crafts, songs and parachute games), along with Toddler Yoga classes and a trial of Quiet Space. The latter is an idea I've been discussing with local parents for a while. Many children (and parents!) struggle with activities for young children because they tend to be noisy and fast-paced, and involve getting close to other children a lot. I am deliberate about accommodating quieter children at Toddler Church. In fact, the sessions are based around the idea that to work with young children, all you need is your body, your voice and your teaching skills – something I learnt in my Toddler Yoga training. I avoid background music, toys and books that make noise, and fast-paced activities, but know I can go further. At the Quiet Space sessions there will be toys, books and crafts available in the church hall, with minimal noise and no communal singing or parachute games. People will be on hand to help children engage with the activities, if they ask for help, but otherwise those of us running it will stay in the background and let the children explore.

The **Holy Cross Patronal Festival** is 14–17 September. We are planning a variety of special services and events, including activities for children. Watch this space...

Saturday 23rd September is the inaugural **European Folk Day** which aims to get people involved in folk music, from complete beginners to professional musicians. We plan to host a musical afternoon event for families and a 'grown up' concert in the evening.

Christmas Market and Lights Switch-On: Saturday 25th November. This is a huge community event hosted by Holy Cross. There is a Christmas market in the church hall and grounds, and live music in the church all afternoon. If you're a musician and would like to be involved, please let me know!

Prayer requests

This month I would ask your prayers for the families who join us each week at Toddler Church, for the success of the activities listed above, and for money! My role is funded until the end of this calendar year, so we are beginning to look for funding to allow me to continue working into 2024. In addition, if you would like to help with any of the summer holiday activities, please let me know.

Lizzy Armstrong-Holmes, Children's Minister

CHURCH GROUNDS

On Rogation Sunday we prayed in the garden as the birds sang around us – were they in fact joining in?

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open wide your hand
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.



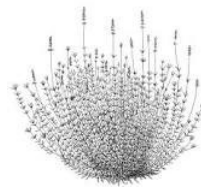
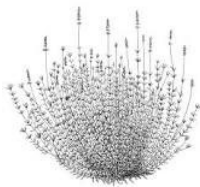
We are indeed blessed in our beautiful grounds, which give pleasure to us and to passers-by, as well as providing us with fresh rhubarb and vegetables in season, and a venue for our barbecue.

We are blessed too in those who work there. Some rally round on our garden days to do whatever is needed, and their help is most welcome. Others on a regular basis give up a lot of their time to digging, planting, harvesting and generally tidying. Did you know that it takes two hours to mow the big lawns?

If you would like to help regularly, speak to Anne, Vaughan or Ian to find out what areas are in most need of a bit of TLC. If you are not able to do anything active, still take time to stroll round and see what is growing and listen to the birds.

Recently the Garden of Remembrance has acquired a beautiful white viburnum in the corner of the plot. The old overgrown lavender hedge on the west side of the big lawn has been replaced by a neat row of a more compact variety which will hopefully stay in its place and not sprawl all over the path. All this without causing the treasurer any worries.

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth, in whom we live and move and have our being, we beseech you at this time to favourably hear us who call upon you, and to send your abundant blessing upon the earth, especially this garden and these church grounds, that bringing forth their fruits in due season, we, being filled with your bounty, may ever more give thanks to you, the giver of all good, through Jesus Christ our Lord.



BOOK REVIEWS by Andrew Vass

***The White Nile* by Alan Moorehead**

Exploring and developing missions to Africa in the 19th century was no easy task. Moorehead in *The White Nile* describes almost matter-of-factly the kinds of difficulties which missionaries faced on a regular basis.

'It was a miserable time for the Bakers. The rain poured down. Regularly each day Baker was seized by a violent attack of malaria, and all his quinine was exhausted. Again, and again, he asked Kamrasi for guides so that he could proceed to the mysterious lake to the west, but was invariably met with a demand for more presents. The crisis came in February 1864. Kamrasi announced that Baker should go to the lake, but Mrs. Baker must remain behind: he would provide Baker with a good-looking Bunyoro virgin in exchange for her. Baker drew his pistol and pointing it at Kamrasi's chest told him he was about to shoot him dead.... At this Kamrasi gave way.'

Malaria, intransigent tribe leaders, and mile after mile of marshy terrain – these were just some of the difficulties they faced. Tribal leaders could suddenly turn very nasty as Church Missionary Society representative Alexander Mackay found as he laboured in Buganda in 1879.

'Suddenly orders were issued that there were to be no more Bible readings or Christian services at the palace; witch doctors were re-admitted into the court and it was not long before their savage influence was felt... Mackay was crushed and disillusioned. "Every day", he wrote in his journal, "there is a wanton slaughter going on of innocent victims. It is dark about 10 p.m.. All is quiet, the last drum heard being the executioner across the small valley, announcing that he has secured his victims for the day, and will spill their blood in the morning.'"

It was to such inclement climates, and unpredictable risks, that young missionaries flocked. These missionaries all found ways of reaching out to the local people. Their medical skills and concern to understand the cultures they worked with made them effective as the voices of the Christian church in Africa. They wanted to understand the language and the attitudes of their new flock. And this sincere wish to get into dialogue was the secret of their success.

Have the churches anything to learn from the study of missionary history? And can non-Christian readers, despite being cut-off from Christian culture, still identify with such Christian history? Is it at least better than identifying with the history of colonialism or imperialism? And it is nice to know we can still be proud of edifying aspects of our history.

Macfarlane – *The Reverend John Ross Remembered*

Ross-shire's own missionary hero was the Reverend John Ross of the United Free Church at Chapel Hill who has been called the father of Christianity in Korea. Macfarlane in *The Reverend John Ross Remembered* has pointed out the qualities and strengths which made Ross stand out among other missionaries.

'John Ross was a man of strong individuality, silent and reserved. He quietly noted what went on around him, slowly formed his plans, and then carried them out with patience and dogged determination. Undeterred by opposition, disappointment or failure, he began his work in Newschwang in the 1870s. As soon as he had mastered enough of the language, he took long journeys into the interior, visiting the principal cities... while giving away tracts and books. All the time he was thinking out the principles and methods on which his work would be done...

'Another decision he made was that, while he would preach to all who would listen, he would direct his efforts especially to the educated class, whose influence was powerful and over-reaching. To this end he studied the Confucian classics... Ross was careful never to antagonise his hearers by denouncing their religion, but was always ready to make use of any common ground between them and himself...'

Yet Ross did not compromise on the message of the Gospels, and for this reason he usually faced heated arguments, and onslaughts of mud and even stones from the more impetuous youths he met in the inland towns. His ability to use a calm pleasant word of understanding and his scholarly debating skills sharpened by his Chinese cultural studies helped him to win a few of these battles of wits.

In his journeys to the east of Manchuria, John Ross saw the mysterious country of Korea, which was closed to foreigners. He often looked longingly across to that beautiful land where Christ could never be preached. Then Ross noticed that a good many Koreans had settled near the Yalu River in Manchuria. A new vision suddenly came to his mind. He would learn the language of Korea, translate the New Testament into it, convert some of the Korean emigrants, and then when they returned with the message to Korea the evangelisation of that country would begin.

Macfarlane ended his review of Ross's achievements: 'I think with humility and pride of John Ross, Catherine and Donald. I think of what they gave in return for what they had been given by Christ, and of the words written over a picture of the Saviour crowned with thorns, in a gallery in Dusseldorf, Germany: "All this I have done for thee. What hast thou done for me?"'

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 17th June Davidson's Mains Gala in Lauriston Castle grounds

Monday 19th June Copy deadline for July/August magazine

Sunday 25th June Barbecue – see page 3

Sundays 25th June and 30th July Children's Concerts – see page 5

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, Sung Liturgy with the *Cantores Sanctae Crucis*

Sunday 17th September Holy Cross Day, Patronal Feast of our congregation. Parish Lunch to follow the Sung Eucharist.

Sunday 1st October Harvest Festival celebration

A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, which art in all places and fillest all things, the treasure of blessings and giver of life, come and abide in us. Cleanse us from all impurity, and of thy goodness save our souls.

A prayer from the Orthodox tradition

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 JUNE 2023

Thursday 1st June – Justin of Rome, Martyr, 165 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 2nd June – Ember Day (*Ember days are days of fasting and prayer, especially for vocations to ministry in the Church*) – **10.30 a.m. Toddler Church – 2 p.m. Healing Eucharist**

Saturday 3rd June – Charles Lwanga and his Companions, 1886, Janani Luwum, Bishop, 1977, Martyrs of Uganda

Sunday 4th June – TRINITY SUNDAY – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

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

Monday 5th June – Boniface of Mainz, Bishop, Missionary and Martyr, 754.

Wednesday 7th June – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Tobit 3.1-11,16-17 Psalm 25.1-8 Mark 12.18-27

Thursday 8th June – CORPUS CHRISTI. Opening of the 2023 General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 9th June – Columba of Iona, our secondary patron – **10.30 a.m. Toddler Church**

Sunday 11th June – PENTECOST 2 – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Hosea 5.15-6.6 Psalm 50.7-15
Romans 4.13-25 Matthew 9.9-13,18-26

Monday 12th June – Barnabas, Apostle (transferred from 11th June)

Wednesday 14th June – Cappadocian Fathers, Basil of Caesarea, Gregory Nazianzen, Gregory of Nyssa, Bishops and Doctors of the Church – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: 2 Corinthians 3.4-11 Psalm 99 Matthew 5.17-19

Thursday 15th June – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 16th June – 10.30 a.m. Toddler Church

Saturday 17th June – Holy Cross/Christmas Lights stall at Davidson's Mains Gala

Sunday 18th June – PENTECOST 3 – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Exodus 19.2-8a Psalm 100
Romans 5.1-8 Matthew 9.35-10.23

Monday 19th June – Romuald of Ravenna, Abbot, 1027

Tuesday 20th June – St Fillan, Abbot, 8th century

Wednesday 21st June – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: 2 Corinthians 9.6-11 Psalm 112.1-9 Matthew 6.1-6,16-18

Thursday 22nd June – St Alban, First Martyr of Britain – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 23rd June – 10.30 a.m. Toddler Church

Saturday 24th June – BIRTHDAY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 25th June – PENTECOST 4 – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Children's Concert 2 p.m.

Readings: Jeremiah 20.7-13 Psalm 69.8-11,8-20
Romans 6.1b-11 Matthew 10.24-39

Monday 26th June – Robert Leighton, Bishop, 1684

Tuesday 27th June – Alexander Jolly, Bishop, 1838

Wednesday 28th June – Irenaeus of Lyons, Bishop, 202 – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Genesis 15.1-12,17-18 Psalm 105.1-9 Matthew 7.15-20

Thursday 29th June – SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 30th June – No Toddler Church

Sunday 2nd July – PENTECOST 5

Readings: Jeremiah 28.5-9 Psalm 13
Romans 6.12-23 Matthew 10.40-42

