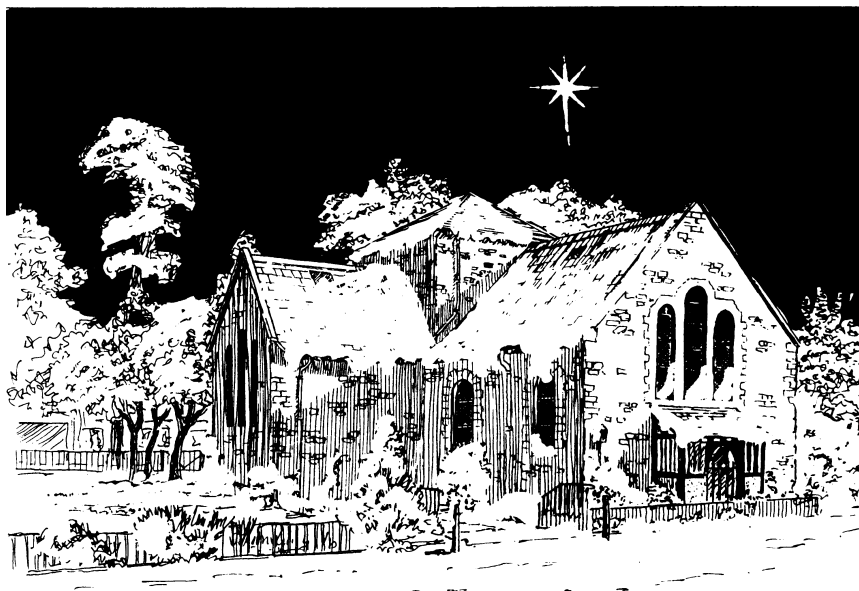


Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024



HOLY CROSS: DAVIDSON'S MAINS

5

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

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
margaretanndeas@btinternet.com

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

Website 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,

I write this as preparations are in progress for the great Christmas Market and Lights Switch On at Holy Cross on Saturday 25th November. This promises to be an enjoyable day when thousands will visit Holy Cross and hundreds enter our church. We greatly value our close connection to the Christmas Lights Committee who have done splendid work preparing our grounds. Thanks to Izzy for organising our Holy Cross contribution to the day, to the singers and musicians who will be performing, and to others who are helping out in various ways. It is good that our church is at the heart of our community.

Elsewhere you can read of our Christmas services. Do bring your friends along. I am particularly pleased at the interest from those who live around us in the Carols in the Pub and our Holy Cross Community Carol Service where we will be joined by our MSP, Alex Cole-Hamilton, and other community leaders. Links between pubs and churches are very important and go back centuries.

At our Annual Meeting we were able to say that this has been a year of growth in our congregation. At every regular service at Holy Cross the numbers grew this year and congregational giving increased substantially. Although it is more intangible, I have seen evidence that we also increased our involvement and profile within the local community. Many of us have contributed to this, and I was able to thank people at the meeting, but it is chiefly to God that we should give thanks. I suspect that the most important contribution we make is our prayers.

Behind this growth is also a vision, a vision of love based on that given to us by Jesus: love God and love your neighbour as yourself (cf. Matthew 22.37-39). We worship and pray; we serve each other and we reach out beyond the walls of our church to connect with our neighbour; we ensure that our church is efficiently run. This is basically a reaching out beyond ourselves, a reaching out to God and the world. The Christmas Market, our Community Carol Service and the Carols in the Pub are all examples of this. To turn in on ourselves, as individuals or as a congregation, is spiritual death.

St Salvador's has also seen remarkable growth this year. When speaking with members of the congregation there and asking why they thought this was so, some answered that it is a church where people really believe in Christ, believe that he is the Son of God, and a church which is open and inclusive. I believe that is more and more true of Holy Cross too – we are a

congregation that prays, celebrates the sacraments and is uncompromisingly orthodox and Christian while being open and inclusive. This is a vision worth embracing!

I have written a report for the Annual Meeting which is available on our website so I don't want to duplicate things here. I will end by wishing you and your families a blessed Advent and a happy and holy Christmas. I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas services.

With love in Christ,



FROM THE REGISTERS

Interment of Ashes:

Isobel Winnington-Ingram on 21st November

Baptisms:

Charlotte and Willow Loveridge Sanchez on 1st December

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

The church remains unadorned during Advent.

Christmas Flowers

Please speak to Sarah about donations to the cost or help with arranging. (sarahmillee@aol.com)



Flower Rota 2024 will be on the noticeboard soon. Please sign up for any Sundays when you would like to be responsible for the flowers. If you would like to donate the flowers but not arrange them yourself, speak to Sarah.

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH

Sunday 10th December

Food provided. BYOB

Suggested donation £5 per head (cash only, please)

Numbers are needed for catering. There are sign-up sheets in church and hall, or contact Sarah or Janette. Please indicate if you can help with clearing and washing up afterwards – don't leave it all to Sarah and Janette.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2023



Saturday 16th December 5 p.m.

Said Latin Mass by Candlelight, using the Scottish Liturgy. This is a 'Rorate Mass', an ancient devotional practice in Advent which celebrates the role of Mary in our salvation. The Mass is only lit by candles, representing Mary's role in bringing the Light of the World into the darkness of the world.

Sunday 17th December 7 p.m.

Holy Cross Candlelit Community Carol Service, with favourite carols and readings by members of community groups.

Tuesday 19th December 7 p.m.

Carols in the Pub at Ye Olde Inn, Davidson's Mains, where members of Holy Cross join with parishioners from St Margaret's (RC) DMPC (CofS), and other local churches. Rehearsal beforehand in Holy Cross at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday 24th December – ADVENT 4 and CHRISTMAS EVE

No 9 a.m. Eucharist

10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday in Advent**

3.30 p.m. **Christingle Service**, carols, candlelight and the Christmas story for all the family

11.30 p.m. **Midnight Mass**, sung service with carols and incense

Monday 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY

9 a.m. Dawn Mass, short contemplative service commemorating the visit of the Shepherds, using the traditional liturgy

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist with carols

VOLUNTEER WELCOMERS NEEDED

There is a list on the church noticeboard of volunteers needed for services not on the regular Sunday duty rota. Many duties are covered (thank you) but so far **NO WELCOMERS!** They are especially important when there are likely to be visitors not familiar with Holy Cross. Please sign up to hand out pew sheets etc., help people find seats and generally make newcomers feel welcome. Welcomers will also be needed for the carol service which is not on the list.

COOKERS FOR CHRISTMAS 2023

From Fresh Start winter 2023 newsletter:

Fresh Start are launching our 2023 Cookers for Christmas campaign. Over the past year, with the cost of living crisis, we have seen referrals for this service increase by 50% – people moving into their new tenancies simply can't afford the high cost of white goods.

Already stretched budgets are being squeezed for families when their appliances stop working, and the prospect of having to replace them is terrifying and pushing people into debt – just to be able to put a hot dinner on the table.

By donating to Fresh Start's Cookers for Christmas campaign, you are not only helping someone at the most troubling and stressful time of their lives – you are putting a hot meal on the table for a household, you are allowing someone to make healthy choices by giving them the means to store food properly, and giving them the basic dignity of being able to wash their clothes.



Cookers for Christmas provides white goods to people and families in need throughout the year and a donation can help to build a home with these basic essentials that we all take for granted.

In a year when we have seen the need for this service double, we need your help more than ever to help those most at risk in society.

We understand that times are tough for everyone at the moment, but if you can, please donate.

Visit the Just Giving page at www.freshstartweb.org.uk or send a cheque payable to Fresh Start (Scotland) to Fresh Start Cookers for Christmas Appeal, 22–24 Ferry Road Drive, Edinburgh EH4 4BR

The website at www.freshstartweb.org.uk will give you information about all Fresh Start's work. You can also follow on Facebook: www.facebook.com/fresh.start.edinburgh and Twitter: [@FreshStartWeb](https://twitter.com/FreshStartWeb).

Fresh Start (Scotland) is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland No. SC197784. Scottish Charity No. SC029184

St SALVADOR'S COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE

Thanks to all who donate food or money to the St Salvador's Food Initiative. It is still needed and the usual attendance remains at about 80 visitors each week, from all nationalities and a mixture of students, families and other local people in need.

In addition to food we also serve tea and coffee, and members of the team chat with the visitors – a great community has been built up and people who have used the food bank have come back to help or to worship at St Salvador's. For those of us at Holy Cross, this is an important link between our two congregations and a good way to help people in need.



Items particularly needed are rice, cooking oil, tins of tuna, packs of sweet biscuits and those cheap instant noodle packs. They also need nappies – at present sizes 5 and 6 are most in demand. Just check use-by dates on anything with a shorter shelf life, and remember quick cooking uses less fuel and therefore costs less make a hot meal.

There is a box by the bench as you come into church for your donations. Please be generous – Christmas can be hard for those on low incomes.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the Angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the Angels sing!

For lo! The days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the Angels sing.

E H Sears, 1810–76



SANCTUARY LAMP – REMEMBERING THE DEPARTED

'A church without the eucharistic presence is somehow dead, even when it invites people to pray. A church in which the eternal light is burning before the tabernacle is always alive, is always something more than a building made of stones.' The small flame in our new sanctuary lamp burns continually in our church, as a sign of prayer and presence, and some members of the congregation have suggested that people might like to sponsor the lamp for a month in memory of a loved one. This can be done at a suggested minimum donation of £15, which covers the cost of the candles. If you would like to do this, please give or send the name to the Rector.

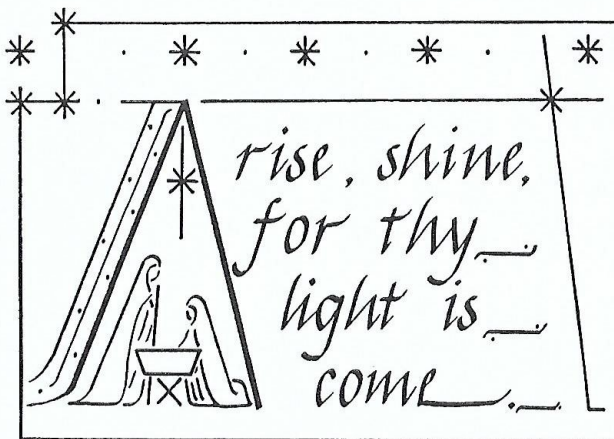
The flame will burn in December for Anton and Colleen Steyn.

FROM THE EDITOR

Apologies if your magazine is a bit late this month. The editor and proofreader work in their spare time. If essential copy arrives days after the deadline our plans are thrown into disarray.

The copy deadline, usually 19th of the month before publication, is the last date for submitting material. Earlier is always welcome. It is useful to know in advance what needs to be fitted in.

Contributions for the magazine are welcome, though if not date-related they may be held over for a later issue, but **PLEASE REMEMBER THE DEADLINE!**



ANNUAL MEETING 2023 APPOINTMENTS and ELECTIONS

Secretary: Nicole Elvin

Treasurer: Colin Mair

Gift Aid Secretary: Colin Mair

Independent Examiner: WK Ramage

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Coordinators:

Alan Kirkpatrick and Izzy Armstrong-Holmes

Lay Representative: Alan Kirkpatrick

Alternate Lay Representative: Sally Mair

Rector's Warden: Alan Kirkpatrick

People's Warden: Sally Mair

Vestry members: David Townhill and Peggy Farrar

BUDGET 2023/24

	Actual 2022/23	Budget 2023/24
Income		
Congregational Giving	£49,401	£45,000
Gift Aid Tax Recoveries	£9,696	£10,200
Hall Rents	£29,791	£15,000
Magazines	£382	£400
Fund Raising	£0	£600
Investment Income	£2,061	£2,000
Charitable Collections	£655	£600
Legacy	£1,150	£0
Fabric Fund Donations	£275	£0
Grants and VAT Recovery	£21,600	£8,000
Total	£115,011	£81,800
Expenditure		
Stipend etc.	-£43,534	-£46,000
Travel	-£660	-£700
Insurance	-£4,763	-£4,250
Council Tax	-£3,774	-£3,672
Repairs and Maintenance	-£28,100	-£10,000
Heat and Light	-£5,940	-£5,000
Altar and Music	-£3,923	-£1,500
Administration Expenses	-£1,434	-£1,200
Quota	-£4,813	-£4,922
Charitable Outgoing	-£2,380	-£600
Pastoral Expenses	-£874	-£400
Total	-£105,493	-£81,744
Surplus/Deficit	£9,518	£56

THE GREAT COURSES LECTURES ON HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

www.thegreatcourses.com

Prof Phillip Carey made an interesting point about the way our earliest sources for Jesus' life are imbued with authentic memories showing that Christ was worshipped as God well before the books of the New Testament were written. 'This is implicit in an early Christian hymn quoted by Paul (in Philippians 2.5–11) which applies to Christ language that had been reserved in the Scriptures for the LORD God of Israel (cf. Isaiah 45.23). The implication at the end (Philippians 2.11) is that glory given to Jesus is glory given to the LORD.' (*PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION IN THE WEST*) This is a valuable insight because our historical sources for Jesus Christ are a little disappointing (as evidence) due to the time gap between Christ's death and their appearance and our lack of knowledge about the authorship of the gospels.

So why study history and philosophy as an additional chore when all we want is to just enjoy the religious life? Prof Francis Ambrosio points to the issues which are at stake: 'To ask the question of the meaning of life for ourselves while at the same time also trying to learn from the wisdom of those who have gone before us, demands that we make ourselves at home in the no man's land between the false security of certainty and a casual promiscuity of indifference'. (*PHILOSOPHY RELIGION AND THE MEANING OF LIFE*) So why can we have a false security in certainty? It is because when we look for the meaning of life there may be several meanings. Our certainty thinking may make us purblind because of the limitedness of our vision and inadequacy of our goals.

As philosophy is the study of principles underlying human knowledge and the rationality of these principles, Ambrosio tells us that starting with Greek philosophy seems essential because 'the Greek worldview envisions human existence lived amidst the surrounding mystery of necessity'. 'Heroic citizenship' is perhaps the great ideal the Greeks bequeathed to us (an ideal which inspired men of the stamp of Martin Luther King). However, a key difference which we find in the Roman version of Stoicism is the idea of the importance of tranquillity. Greek Stoicism had focused on virtue but Roman Stoicism suggested that if you asked yourself 'why don't I have tranquillity?' you would be able to focus on truly liking what you have, instead of being prone to impulses and negative emotions due to the sudden appearance of acquired habits of discontentedness.

If Stoicism points us towards the value of modern psychotherapies as an aid

to propping up ‘our conflicted’ emotional world, Leibniz (a German philosopher of the Enlightenment) points to one key to resolving this discontent. He tells us that ‘God acts providentially’. So don’t worry if your plan doesn’t work out; it’s because God has a better plan, or ‘doesn’t want that for you yet’. By contrast, Kierkegaard’s philosophy is a response to Luther. Carey describes how Luther wanted people to be aware of their sinfulness. ‘The point of preaching Law (rather than Gospel) is to bring sinners to the point of despairing in themselves and fleeing to the grace of the Gospel.’ ‘For Kierkegaard however, faith doesn’t just save you from the wrath of God; it is the way you come to be related to yourself in the right way by being related to God in the right way.’ (*PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION IN THE WEST*) ‘Kierkegaard gives a rich analysis of the various levels of inwardness as people move from smugness and immaturity to Christian faith – from the “aesthetic” to the “ethical” to the “religious” stage of life.’

So philosophy reminds us of the stages we have to go through. It is not that the psychological and the religious are separate, instead they are yoked together – we all have to question our smugness and immaturity regularly, as we work with the stages, challenges and ‘questions of meaning’ which crop up in our fast-paced lives. By revisiting our first love, i.e. reconsidering what drew us to our religious beliefs, we can rekindle tranquillity and ethical sense of purpose.

Andrew Vass

WORSHIP

(Any variations are noted in the Kalendar)

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

Christmas services are listed on page 5.

KALENDAR and READINGS
DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

Friday 1st December – Charles de Foucauld, Priest and Hermit, 1916 –
**Toddler Church 10.30 a.m. – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m. – Baptism of
Charlotte and Willow Loveridge Sanchez 3 p.m.**

Saturday 2nd December – Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637

**Sunday 3rd December – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Eucharist
9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 64.1-9 Psalm 80.1-7,16-18
 I Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-37

Monday 4th December – Clement of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, c.214

Wednesday 6th December – Nicholas of Myra, Bishop, 4th century –
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

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

Thursday 7th December – Ambrose of Milan, bishop and teacher of the
faith, 397 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 8th December – The Conception of Mary, Mother of the Lord –
Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.

**Sunday 10th December – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT –
Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 40.1-11 Psalm 85.1-2,8-13
 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8

Tuesday 12th December – Finnian of Clonard, abbot, c.550

Wednesday 13th December – Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304 –
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 40.25-31 Psalm 103.1-10 Matthew 11.28-30

Thursday 14th December – John of the Cross, priest and teacher of the
faith – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 15th December – Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.

**Saturday 16th December – Latin Mass (*Liturgia Scotica 1970*) by
candlelight 5 p.m.**

**Sunday 17th December – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Gaudete
Sunday; O Sapientia (O Wisdom) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.
– Candlelit Community Carols 7 p.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 Psalm 126 or Luke 1.46b-55
 I Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-2

Advent changes gear today and turns its attention towards the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Each day at Evening Prayer has a special and very beautiful antiphon sung before and after the Magnificat, each of which develop titles of Christ. Today it is: 'O Wisdom, who proceeded out of the mouth of the most high, reaching from one end of creation to the other and ordering all things powerfully and gently, come and teach us the way of prudence'.

Monday 18th December – O Adonai (Sacred Lord)

Tuesday 19th December O radix Jesse (Root of Jesse) – **Community Carols in Ye Olde Inn 7 p.m.**

Wednesday 20th December – O Clavis David (Key of David) – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 7.10-14 Psalm 24 Luke 1.26-38

Thursday 21st December – O Oriens (Morning Star) – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 22nd December – O Rex Gentium (King of the Nations)

Saturday 23rd December – O Emmanuel (God with us)

Sunday 24th December

In the morning: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Eucharist 10.30 a.m. (no 9 a.m. service)

Readings: 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 Luke 1.47-55
 Romans 16.25-27 Luke 1.26-38

In the afternoon: CHRISTMAS EVE

Christingle 3.30 p.m.

Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m.

Readings: Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm 98
 Hebrews 1.1-4 Luke 2.1-14(15-20)

Monday 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY – THE LORD'S NATIVITY

Dawn Mass 9.00 a.m. (Scottish Liturgy 1970)

Sung Eucharist with Carols 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 9.2-7 Psalm 96
 Titus 2.11-14 John 1.1-14

Tuesday 26th December – St Stephen, deacon and martyr

Wednesday 27th December – John the Apostle and Evangelist – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Genesis 1.1-5,12-19 or 1.1-31 Psalm 92.1-2,11-14
1 John 1.1-9 John 20.1-8

Thursday 28th December – the Holy Innocents – *no Zoom Evening Prayer*

Friday 29th December – Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop and Martyr, 1170

Sunday 31st December – FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 61.10-62.3 Psalm 148
Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.22-40

Monday 1st January 2024 – THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

Tuesday 2nd January – Seraphim of Sarov, Monk and Mystic, 1833

Wednesday 3rd January – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: 1 John 2.29-3.6 Psalm 98.1,3a-6 John 1.29-34

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

Friday 5th January – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.

Saturday 6th January [Epiphany transferred to Sunday]

Sunday 7th January – EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6 Psalm 72.1-7,10-14
Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12

Monday 8th January – BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Wednesday 10th January – William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645 – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: 1 Samuel 3.1-20 Psalm 40.1-10 Mark 1.29-39

Thursday 11th January – David, King of Scots, 1153 – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 12th January – Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915 – Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.

Saturday 13th January – KENTIGERN (MUNGO), Bishop

Sunday 14th January – SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: 1 Samuel 3.1-10 Psalm 139.1-5,12-17
1 Corinthians 5.12-20 John 1.43-51

Wednesday 17th January – Antony of Egypt, Abbot, 356 – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: 1 Samuel 17.32-51 Psalm 144.1-10 Mark 3.1-6

Thursday 18th January – The Confession of Peter – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

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

Saturday 20th January – Founders of Anglican Franciscan Communities

Sunday 21st January – THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Jonah 3.1-5,10 Psalm 62.6-14
1 Corinthians 7.29-31 Mark 1.14-20

Wednesday 24th January – Francis de Sales, Bishop, 1622 – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: 2 Samuel 7.4-17 Psalm 89.1-4 Mark 4.1-20

Thursday 25th January – THE CONVERSION OF PAUL, Apostle. End of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 26th January – Timothy and Titus, Bishops – Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.

Saturday 27th January – John Chrysostom, Bishop & Teacher of the Faith, 407

Sunday 28th January – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Deuteronomy 18.15-20 Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8.1-13 Mark 1.21-28

Tuesday 30th January – CHARLES I, King and Martyr, 1649, founder of the Diocese of Edinburgh – King Charles the Martyr Mass at the Cathedral 11.30 a.m.

Wednesday 31st January – Charles Mackenzie, Bishop in Central Africa, Martyr – Eucharist 10.20 a.m.

Readings: 2 Samuel 24.2,7-19 Psalm 32.1-8 Mark 6.1-6



