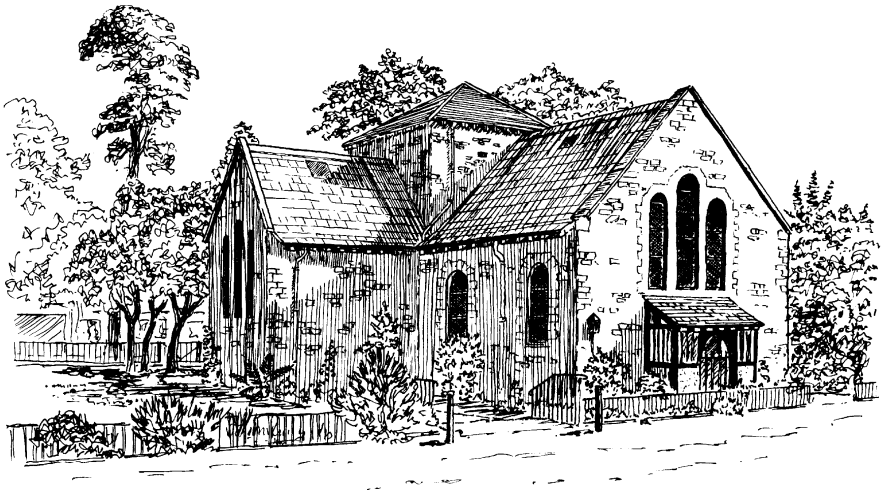


# Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

FEBRUARY 2024



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:margaretandeas@btinternet.com)

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

**Website** [holycrossedinburgh.org](http://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,

It is the in-between times. As I write this, Christmas is only a few weeks in the past and within a month we will be in Lent. It was heartening to see that many churches throughout Scotland saw a great increase in numbers at Christmas services and we experienced the same. Our church had over 250 people at our services and large numbers at the Indian Orthodox Vigil between Christingle and Midnight Mass. We also had the joy of our Candlelit Community Carol Service and joining with the other local churches for Carols in the Pub. Significant sums of money were raised for our two Christmas charities, Jeeps for Peace (Ukraine) and the St Salvador's Food Bank.

In the last magazine I said that our vision is simply that of Jesus, 'love God and love your neighbour as yourself', therefore it was really good to see so many of our neighbours coming through our doors (and joining us in the pub) to worship God. I was particularly pleased to see so many of the families who have been to Toddler Church and our Children's Concerts at the Christmas Eve family services. Their children felt so at home in God's House that they were happy to come up and arrange knitted sheep in our crib. I was also really pleased to see so many people at the Christmas Market & Lights Switch On at Holy Cross at the start of Advent. Over 6,200 people came into our grounds and many visited our church. Thanks to Izzy and David Townhill, and Phil Coad of Davidson's Mains Parish Church for organising music in church and on the stage. This is all a great sign that we are reconnecting with our local community and the Lights Committee did some great work tidying up our grounds.

I would like to thank Izzy for all she is doing with our children and families ministry. She will stop leading Toddler Church at Easter as our baby is due in late May and she will not return to children's ministry until next year. While she is away David Townhill and I will run the children's concerts and Alan Kirkpatrick will be our sole safeguarding convener.

We welcome our new Vestry members, David Townhill and Peggy Farrar, and also those who have taken on new roles: Alan Kirkpatrick as Lay Representative and Sally Mair as alternate Lay Representative. Vestry members are the charity trustees of the congregation and, chaired by the Rector, are responsible for the practical side of our life. They also support the Rector in his spiritual and pastoral leadership. The Lay Representative represents Holy Cross at the Diocesan Synod, which is like the parliament of

our diocese of Edinburgh. Nicole Elvin is retiring as Vestry Secretary at the end of this year and anyone who is interested in taking on this role should speak to her or to me. As a community we depend on the generosity of our members.

This year Lent falls on St Valentine's Day. Love among the ashes. This coincidence is great material for sermons but love should drive our Lenten observance. Lent is like a spiritual spring clean, we take things on and give things up to help us be closer to God. It starts on Ash Wednesday when we have two Eucharists with the reception of ashes. We are planning Lent study groups and we hope to establish a permanent contemplative/silent prayer meeting. More details of these are on page 5.

The first Sunday of Lent is the fourth anniversary of my institution as Rector. So much good has happened in those four years, which started with a pandemic and a freezing church because the boiler was condemned. Izzy and I are grateful for the warm welcome we received (we remember Esme Randall turning up on our doorstep with a tasty fish pie) and are really happy here. Thank you for your continuing love and support. Let us pray for each other and build up the Kingdom of God.

With love in Christ,



## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who helped to beautify the church for Christmas, and to Sarah Millée, Jenny Harrison and Yvonne for flowers in January.

4th February Margaret Deas

11th February ?

18th February LENT The church remains unadorned until Easter.



**Flower Rota 2024** is on the noticeboard. Please sign up for any Sundays when you would like to be responsible for the flowers – a simple vase or a complex arrangement, the choice is yours. If you have not done the flowers before, Sarah is happy to advise.

If you would like to donate the flowers but not arrange them yourself please speak to Sarah ([sarahmillee@aol.com](mailto:sarahmillee@aol.com)).

# LENT

## ASH WEDNESDAY

14th FEBRUARY

Eucharist 10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.  
with Imposition of Ashes

## LENT GROUPS

We are planning two groups:

1. Preparing for Easter – meeting in the church on Thursdays at 7pm for an hour from 22 February to 14 March, looking at our Holy Week services, both the Bible readings and the prayers and music. If you are interested contact Stephen: [rector.hce@gmail.com](mailto:rector.hce@gmail.com)
2. A joint online group with St Salvador's. Details will be shared later but if you are interested contact Ross: [curate.sshc@gmail.com](mailto:curate.sshc@gmail.com)

## CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP

Since I arrived here, I have felt it would be good to have a contemplative prayer group, an opportunity for people to meet in the church in the presence of God and sit in silence for 30 or 40 minutes, with no more than a few words at the beginning and end, such as a Bible verse or the Lord's Prayer. I know many of you already pray like this and some local people have said they would be interested. Duncan Hughes, who has recently moved to Cramond, and I have spoken about this and it seems that now is the time to start. It would be a place where anyone could come, as long as they could keep the silence, and there would not be a commitment to be there each week. Contact me if you are interested and we can work out a time and a day.

*Stephen*

OUR FATHER,  
*who art in  
heaven*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

It seems like only last week that I was toiling over the Annual Report and Accounts for the AGM, but now as I write it is January and we are four months into the new financial year. Last year, we restored our reserves to their target level, and I set a conservative budget at the AGM aiming to consolidate that position.

After the first four months, I am pleased to say we are currently ahead of our budget. Congregational giving is on target, boosted by donations totalling £3,075 for the Holy Cross Gift Day (exceeding last year's total), and special collections at the various Advent and Christmas services. Donations have also been coming in for the St Salvador's Food Bank, Jeeps for Peace, Ross's Ordination gift, the magazine, the Lectionary, the Congregational Lunch and church flowers, so you can see the Treasurer has been kept on his toes. We received a grant of £6,672 from the SEC Buildings Grant fund for work already paid for on the Rectory pointing, which has significantly boosted our bank balance. Repairs and maintenance costs have been mercifully low to-date this year (Sept – Dec). Hall rents have, as predicted, been lower than last year following the departure of the Reindeer Playgroup and the After School Club but we had allowed for that in the budget. It's good to be able to report such a positive start, long may it continue!

I wish you all a happy New Year

Kind regards

*Colin Mair*



### HOLY CROSS DIRECTORY

The new contact list of who does what at Holy Cross is with this magazine. Please tell the Rector of any errors or omissions.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 14th February	Ash Wednesday – see page 5
Thursday 22nd February	Lent Group begins – see page 5
Friday 1st March	World Day of Prayer – see page 9
24th to 31st March	Holy Week and Easter
12th to 18th May	Christian Aid Week

## THANKS FROM ST SALVADOR'S COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE



*This letter reached us too late for the December magazine.*

As the year draws to a close, we want to say thank you for supporting St Salvador's Community Food Initiative. As an independent food pantry, we rely entirely on donations from community groups, churches and individuals. It is your generosity that makes this ministry possible. We currently give away around 100 bags of food and toiletries each week. These essential supplies help to relieve some of the pressures that local families and individuals are experiencing.

The Community Food Initiative is a hub of midweek activity at St Salvador's. It enables us to open our doors to the community and to provide volunteering opportunities. For example, a team of high school students now helps to pack the essentials bags each week. Our dedicated volunteer team also greet clients, distributes food and runs the community café.

In addition to supporting people within the community, the Community Food Initiative has been a source of renewal for St Salvador's. By deepening our connections with the local community, we have seen the number of people attending our services increase.

Thank you for your support over the past year. We appreciate the time and energy your congregation put into collecting items to donate. It is a real source of encouragement to know that we are supported by other churches across the diocese.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Suggested food items to donate: pasta, rice, tinned meals, tinned desserts, biscuits and cooking oil.

Information about how to donate financially can be found on our website: [stsalvadors.co.uk](http://stsalvadors.co.uk)

St Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church is a Scottish Charity, SC013329, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

*There is a box for contributions beside the bench as you come into Holy Cross. Household and personal hygiene items and nappies (especially sizes 3 to 6) are useful as well as food.*

*Attendance has risen during the winter. On the day this was updated 134 people and families came to collect food.*

## **OUR NEW SANCTUARY LAMP AND REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES**

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.

In February the lamp burns in memory of Reg and Vicki Doe and in March in memory of Karen Gillies and Kay Dowell. If you would like the light to burn in memory of someone later in the year, please send their name to the Rector or sign up on the sheet on the noticeboard in church.

## **HELP NEEDED!**

Lent is a time when one takes things on as well as giving them up. Many of you help in various ways to keep our community and church running but there are still new opportunities to serve.

**Sunday Coffee** – contact Jane Allan

**Reading, Serving or leading the Intercessions** at the Sung Eucharist – contact the Rector

Pauline Skinner looks after the **Sunday Duties rota**

**Church cleaning** – a couple of us clean the church once a month. To join the teams contact Sarah Millée

**Working in the gardens and grounds** – contact the Rector or Anne Williams. Anne and Catherine are often there on a Saturday morning

**Sacristy work, setting up for services, washing altar linen** – contact the Rector or talk to Jean Williams or Neville Long

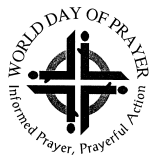
**Flowers in Church** – contact Sarah Millée

**Delivering magazines** – contact Margaret Deas

We also need people who can **open up the hall for groups on Saturdays** and **keep the hall cleaning cupboard stocked** – contact the Rector or Colin Mair

**Vestry Secretary** – see Rector's letter, page 4





## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**Friday 1st March 2024**

**2 p.m. at Cramond Kirk**

**All Welcome!**

***'I beg you to bear with one another in love'***  
**Written by Christian women of Palestine**  
**The land where Christianity was born!**

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

A group of ecumenical Palestinian Christian women have worked collectively the last four years to pray and reflect on the theme, and they invite us to join them as they pray:

- **For peace**
- **For justice**
- **For love and unity**

**'Lord, teach us to pray'**

**Let us praise God who brings us together to worship in love and unity. 'I beg you to bear with one another in love.' (Ephesians 4.1-7)**

## **A VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA WITH CHRISTIAN AID**

The Zulu word *uhambo* means journey. It was the title of the trip which I took in late October to South Africa with Christian Aid. The purpose of our journey was to meet some of the programmes which Christian Aid support and to reflect on what these encounters might say to us. Our principal conversation partners were Church Land Programme (CLP), an organisation that was founded in the wake of apartheid to stand in solidarity with the landless poor. Using the method of see-judge-act and guided by the maxim that 'we make the road by walking', CLP invited us to journey over ten days into the realities of contemporary South Africa.

The hard truth is that South Africa is a country that teeters on the edge of societal collapse. Power outages are a frequent occurrence, violent crime is

endemic, and communities find themselves increasingly divided. Where the African National Congress (ANC) – the party of Nelson Mandela – once represented a new future for South Africa, for an increasing number of people they now exemplify incompetence and cronyism. As one community organiser described the situation: ‘for many, it feels like after apartheid, the players changed but the game remained the same’. Here, then, is a cautionary tale about the dangers of political power: the radicals became the institution.

Our time in South Africa was divided between Durban and Pietermaritzburg, in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Here we met with folk from several organisations who are seeking to bring about change. These included: Abahlali baseMjondolo, the largest movement of the organised poor in post-apartheid South Africa; the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA), a non-governmental coalition who struggle for higher environmental standards; and the Ujamaa Centre, who have developed an internationally renowned method of contextual Bible study. Each day ended with a period of reflection, during which we grappled with the stories and realities that we had encountered.

From Abahlali, we heard a voice of protest against the deep inequalities in South Africa, the principal demands of their movement being land, housing, and dignity – demands that have led to more than 20 of their leaders being assassinated. We also witnessed what the housing conditions are like for those who live in informal settlements. Yet, the comrades of Abahlali are not to be pitied but rather respected as an embodiment of dignified resistance. On our Toxic Tour with SDCEA, we learnt how multinational corporations have stripped South Africa of its natural resources. The lasting impact is one of environmental degradation. In conversation with Ujamaa, we considered how social questions might be brought into dialogue with scripture in a process-driven method of Bible study. The question, then, is not simply what scripture says about a topic but how the process of considering what scripture says in light of contextual challenges might lead us to act in new ways.

During our time in South Africa, we came to see the impact of a dream delayed. For many the promises of a rainbow nation has failed to materialise. However, through the people we met and the conversations we shared on our journey we were able to catch glimpses of the Spirit moving in the struggles for a new reality.

*Ross Jesmont*



## **KALENDAR and READINGS FEBRUARY 2024**

**Thursday 1st February** – Bride of Kildare, Abbess, c.525 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

**Friday 2nd February** (the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is kept on the following Sunday) – **Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.** – **Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.**

Saturday 3rd February – Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Scandinavia, 865

**Sunday 4th February – PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Candlemas) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Malachi 3.1-4                      Psalm 84.1-6  
                  Hebrews 2.14-18                Luke 2.22-40

Monday 5th February – Agatha, Martyr, c.300

Tuesday 6th February – Paul Miki, priest, and the Martyrs of Japan, 1597

**Wednesday 7th February – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* I Kings 10.1-10      Psalm 37.1-7,32-33,41-42      Mark 7.14-20

**Thursday 8th February – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

**Friday 9th February – Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.**

Saturday 10th February – Scholastica, Abbess, c.543

**Sunday 11th February – SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* 2 Kings 5.1-14                      Psalm 30  
                  I Corinthians 9.24-27                Mark 1.40-45

**ASH WEDNESDAY 14th February – Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes 10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.**

*Readings:* Joel 2.1-2,12-17                      Psalm 51.1-4,8-13      2  
                  Corinthians 5.20b-6.10                Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

**Thursday 15th February** – comm. Thomas Bray, Priest and Missionary, 1730 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

**Friday 16th February – Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.**

Saturday 17th February – comm. Finan of Lindisfarne, Bishop, 661

**Sunday 18th February – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT** (*fourth anniversary of the institution of Stephen Holmes as Rector of Holy Cross*) – **Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Genesis 9.8-17 Psalm 25.3-8  
I Peter 3.18-22 Mark 1.9-15

Monday 19th February – comm. Martin Luther, Priest, 1545

**Wednesday 21st February – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

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

**Thursday 22nd February – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

**Friday 23rd February – comm. Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop and Martyr, c.156 – Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.**

**Sunday 25th February – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Genesis 17.1-7,15-16 Psalm 22.22-30  
Romans 4.13-25 Mark 9.2-9

Tuesday 27th February – comm. George Herbert, priest and poet, 1633

**Wednesday 28th February – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Jeremiah 18.18-20 Psalm 31.1-5,13-16 Matthew 20.17-28

**Thursday 29th February – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

**Sunday 3rd March – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Exodus 20.1-17 Psalm 19.7-14  
I Corinthians 1.18-25 John 2.13-22

## **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**