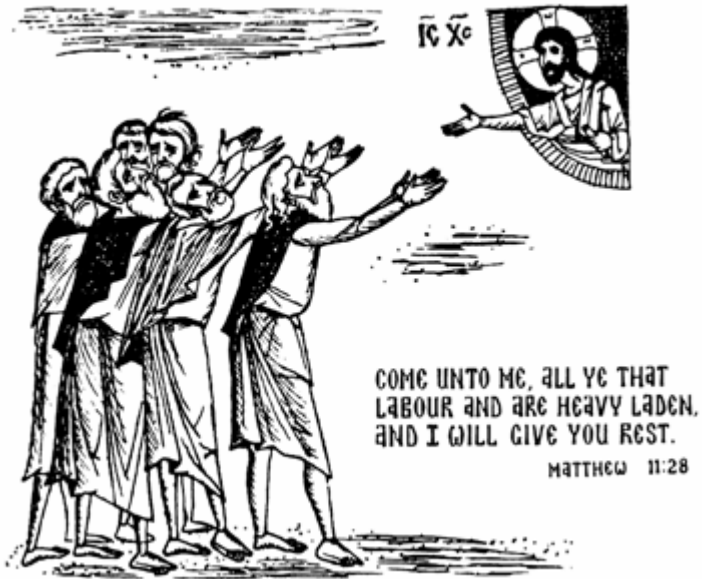


Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

MARCH 2024



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

All around us are the signs of spring and the children at my daughter's nursery are eagerly spotting them. New shoots are appearing and the crocuses are out in the church grounds. March is the beginning of spring in some reckonings – I looked this up and there are more definitions than I had expected!

This March is also Lent, which is appropriate as the word 'Lent' comes from the Early English word 'lencten' which means the spring season. Other languages are more Christian in their names for Lent with words that refer to the forty days, the Italian *quaresima*, the French *carême*, and the Gaelic *An Carghas* (all from the Latin *quadragesima*), or to the fasting, the German *Fastenzeit* and the Russian *vieliki post*. It has been good to see Gordon Kingsford-Smith back at Holy Cross after a period of illness and, as he is Australian, he and our South African members remind us that the association of Lent with spring, while valid, is not universal.

Whatever we call it, our Lent in the north is associated with the changes in the natural world and the rising of our spirits as the earth awakes and looks forward to the rising of Christ at Easter at the end of the month. Paul said, 'if Christ be not risen your faith is in vain' (1 Corinthians 15.14) and it is this basic fact, that Christ triumphed over death and evil, which is what we have to offer the world. Our Scottish Episcopal Church has approved a new set of Holy Week and Easter services to help us share in this great mystery of Christ. All the times of our Holy Week and Easter services are on page 5; I look forward to seeing you at them.

Music is an important part of our life at Holy Cross. We know it is Lent when we sing 'Forty days and forty nights', and Holy Week and Easter have their own evocative music. I am pleased, with the enthusiastic support of our music team and Vestry, to appoint Alexey Popov as our assistant organist, working with David Townhill. It is good that we can support young musicians and Alexey has shown himself more than competent in playing for our worship. We also hope to have Richard Pullan to sing with us on Easter Day. Richard is a student at the University of Edinburgh and made a wonderful contribution to our Community Carol Service.

I wish you and your families a holy Lent, that we may all arrive together with joy at the gates of Easter.

With love in Christ,





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)

HOLY WEEK VOLUNTEERS

Palm Sunday and Easter Day are on the normal duty rota. We shall also need welcomers, readers etc. for at least some of the services during Holy Week. Please tell the Rector if you are available and willing to help.

SACRAMENTS – PRAYERS PLEASE FOR:

Klara Duck and her parents Kasia and Andrew. Klara will be baptised at Holy Cross on Sunday 21st April.

Laura Hundert and **Nathan Thomson** who will be married at St Paul's, Brookline, USA on 15th June. Laura is the granddaughter of the late Isobel and Richard Winnington-Ingram of Holy Cross and, as they live in Scotland, Fr Stephen has done their marriage preparation.

LENT GROUP

Holy Cross Lent Group – Thursdays 7 to 8 p.m. in the church, 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. It is a great way to prepare for Easter. You can come to one or more meetings, as you are able.

With Jesus in his Passion: exploring the services of Holy Week

22nd February – Maundy Thursday (led by Fr Stephen)

29th February – Good Friday (led by Fr Stephen)

7th March – Easter Vigil 1: Light and Readings (led by Fr Ross)

14th March – Easter Vigil 2: Baptism & Eucharist (led by Fr Ross)



Holy Week

HOLY WEEK & THE SACRED TRIDUUM AT HOLY CROSS & ST SALVADOR'S

24th to 31st March – *All services at Holy Cross unless otherwise noted*

PALM SUNDAY Said Eucharist 9 a.m.

Sung Eucharist and procession with Palms 10.30 a.m.

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK *Sung Compline at St Salvador's 7 p.m.*

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK Sung Compline 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK Eucharist at 10.30 a.m.
Sung Compline at St Salvador's 7 p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.30 p.m. Evening Eucharist of the Lord's
Supper followed by watching until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY *Stations of the Cross at St Salvador's 10.30 a.m.*
Liturgy of the Passion 3 p.m. – joint service with St David's, Pilton

HOLY SATURDAY *Joint Easter Vigil at St Salvador's 9.30 p.m.*

EASTER DAY Sung Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL 2024

JERUSALEM PRINCESS BASMA CENTRE

This year's [Bishop's Lent Appeal](#) is in aid of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, located under the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. The centre provides rehabilitative services to children with disabilities from Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, and operates under the umbrella of the Arab Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. It serves as a place of hope, healing and inclusivity for all. Our Dean, the Very Revd Frances Burberry, visited the centre on her trip to the Holy Land this time last year, and has shared some of her experiences below.

As ever, your generosity is vastly appreciated.

To donate please send your money to the Holy Cross bank account (details inside front cover) with LENT APPEAL as the reference and we will send it on to the Diocese. If this is not feasible, give cash or a cheque to Colin our Treasurer, clearly marked 'Lent Appeal'.

Dean Frances writes:

It was February last year when I visited the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC) which is located on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives and operates under the umbrella of the Arab Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East – under the supervision of the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, Bishop Hosam Naoum – in the fields of health, disability and inclusive education. The JPBC is also a part of the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network and, like its near neighbour the Augusta Victoria Hospital, it plays a vital role in the Palestinian healthcare system.

First established in 1961, when there was a need for physiotherapy services for children with disabilities, as a result of polio becoming widespread amongst the Palestinian population, the centre took its name from Princess Basma of Jordan (sister of King Hussein of Jordan) who inaugurated the building during her visit there in 1966.

The JPBC is an inclusive school, and is also a child rehabilitation centre for disabled children and their families from the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem. The school has children from ages 5 to 18, one third of whom are disabled. The rehabilitation centre provides inpatient and outpatient support for children (from birth to age 15) with a range of congenital and neuromuscular conditions including for example autism and cerebral palsy. Both inpatients and outpatients can receive speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy, music therapy and psychosocial support. Rehabilitative treatments often involve more than three-week stays at the

centre. Children receive individualised rehabilitation programmes and their parents and/or grandparents are trained as ‘shadow therapists’ to continue the programmes at home, supported by follow-up appointments as needed and/or telephone consultations with staff at the JPBC.

The JPBC was scheduled to open a new centre inside the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem’s Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza in November 2023. At the war’s conclusion, that new centre’s services will be more necessary than ever. For not only will thousands of newly maimed children need physical therapy, nearly all of Gaza’s children will also be suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and in need of psychological counselling.

On my visit in February 2023, I saw a place which grows hope by offering a lifeline of support, education and rehabilitation; transforming the lives of children with disabilities and empowering their families to care for them.

The JPBC receives financial support for the care of children with disabilities. It is also dependent upon international fundraising to sustain its vital and inspiring programmes.

The Very Revd Canon Frances Burberry

ST SALVADOR’S FOOD BANK

Thanks to all who donate food or money to the St Salvador’s Food Initiative. It is still needed and attendance has risen during the winter. 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. Other tinned and packet food is welcome too, but nothing which needs to be kept refrigerated (Holy Cross can be chilly, but not that cold!) or has a very short shelf life. They also need nappies – at present sizes 3 to 6 months (updated) are most in demand – and other hygiene items.



We have a big new box for the donations and it is helpful if they can be put in it in bags – there is always need for bags when giving out food. Thank you!

BIBLE JOURNALLING RETREAT DAY
for Holy Week and Easter
Saturday 23rd March 2024
10.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St James' Church
57B Inverleith Row EH3 5PX



Come to a quiet day of reflection on Jesus' journey towards the crucifixion and resurrection using colour, image, words and silence. Make your own postcard journal, pray with a story of your choice, explore using symbolism, decoration or writing in your journal.

Please bring your own lunch. Coffee and tea provided.

Please book in advance by email stjamesgoldenacre@gmail.com

Cost to cover materials: £10 – please bring cash on the day. All materials you need for the day will be provided. Bring your own Bible if you prefer. Bursaries available if needed. Speak to Jane rector@stpj.org.uk.

The retreat will be led by the Revd Jane MacLaren, Priest-in-charge at St Philip's and St James' Goldenacre.

For more information about St James' Church see www.stpj.org.uk

For more info about Bible journalling see www.biblejournalling.co.uk/about/

The Bible Journalling UK shop will be available if you wish to purchase extra study notes, gifts and journals to take away. Payment via honesty box. Cash only.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

The church remains unadorned until Easter.

Easter Flowers: Sarah and her Flower Team would welcome cash donations (in advance) towards the cost of Easter flowers. Please consult them about donations in kind and help with arranging.

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 cannot arrange them yourself please speak to Sarah (sarahmillee@aol.com).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Last month I was horrified to see that our gas bill was over £2,000, which is about three times as much as for the same time last year.

I checked my records and found that we had indeed used much more gas than normal, but the real issue was that our contract with British Gas had renewed on 15th December, and we were on a new tariff that was more than twice as expensive as the previous one.

I immediately thought I had made some terrible mistake and we had accidentally moved onto their most expensive tariff. I phoned our brokers, who have always been excellent at finding the best deals for us. To my relief they confirmed that I hadn't done anything wrong and that the new tariff was correct and perfectly reasonable. It had been arranged a year ago and was considerably better than any deal I would be offered now (which would be twice as much again).

It's just that the old deal was astoundingly good, and we were extremely fortunate to have benefitted from it for the two-year fixed contract which has just ended.

My relief was short-lived. Although I was exonerated, the reality is that we are now paying much more than we were for our gas heating.

To quote Joni Mitchell from her song *Big Yellow Taxi*, 'you don't know what you've got till it's gone'.

Colin Mair

February 2024

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 March the lamp burns 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.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE SUNDAY 10.30 SERVICE

We have been extremely lucky at Holy Cross, to have the committed helpers who provide us every Sunday with tea or coffee and biscuits.

Thanks not only go to the volunteers themselves but the setting up of the rota and making sure that the stock is replenished when we are low on one thing or another.

During the Covid pandemic we took the precaution to have biscuits which were individually wrapped for hygiene, and we decided then that those bringing the biscuits would take home any that were left over.

On Sunday 31st December we realised no one had signed up to make coffee, and Anne Williams and visitor Simon Dickinson jumped to the rescue, in a joint effort much appreciated by those who attended the service! A large quantity of biscuits was left after that day, kept in a box and brought out the next Sunday, and the next. This practice is not deemed ideal in that the biscuits might be handled several times, rendering them unhygienic, as well as stale.

The team who looks after the supplies would be keen to return to having the volunteers bring biscuits on the day and take home the surplus, avoiding leftovers. (Please remember that a small number of people need gluten-free.)

Additionally, you may remember that we had adopted a 'policy' some time back against purchasing Nestlé products because of their promotion of baby formula:

'Since the company's conception in 1867, Nestlé has convinced people its baby formula is better for infants than breast milk – a claim that is categorically false. They placed particular focus on marketing in developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia during the 1970s, sending saleswomen dressed as nurses to convince the mothers that their formula was better for their children than their own breast milk.' (From [Utopia.org](https://www.utoxia.org))

There are many acceptable alternative makers of instant coffee, which would be preferable. To this end, if you wish to donate a jar of coffee, perhaps bear the above in mind.

To all who provide us with refreshments on a Sunday, a very big THANK YOU!

The Sunday Refreshment Team



REVELATIONS OF DIVINE LOVE **by Julian of Norwich (1342–1416)**

Julian of Norwich dedicated her life to God by living as an Anchorite in a cell attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich. No one knows her real name so she has acquired the name of the church to which she was attached. The Church of St Julian can still be visited in Norwich. Miraculously, her writings have survived in which she describes her meditations and visions. 'Above all she has a gift for expressing profound thoughts in the simplest language.'

Addressing God as Father and Jesus as Son is the traditional way of approaching God but we know that it is a metaphor which expresses the fact that God has the attributes of fatherhood and of sonship. God, equally, has the attributes of motherhood and of womanhood but these attributes are not traditionally much expressed. However, Julian in her book written in the 14th century writes very simply about the motherhood of God as expressed through Jesus. The following are some random extracts from her *Revelations* in which she gives a more balanced understanding of who God is:

'Jesus Christ who sets good against evil is our real Mother. We owe our being to him – and this is the essence of motherhood! – and all the delightful, loving protection, which ever follows. God is as really our Mother as he is our Father.'

'Our great Father, together with the foresight and wisdom of the whole blessed Trinity, willed that the Second Person should become our Mother, Brother and Saviour. Hence it follows that God is truly our Mother as he is our Father.'

'We see that Jesus is the true Mother of our nature, for he made us. He is our Mother too by grace because he took our created nature upon himself. All the lovely deeds and tender services that beloved motherhood implies are appropriate to the Second Person.'

'A mother's is the most intimate, willing and dependable of all services, because it is the truest of all. None has been able to fulfil it properly but Christ, and he alone can. We know that our own mother's bearing of us was a bearing to pain and death, but what does Jesus our own Mother do? Why, he, All-love, bears us to joy and eternal life! Blessings on him!'

'Jesus needs to feed us...it is an obligation of his dear, motherly love. The human mother will suckle her child with her own milk, but our beloved Mother Jesus, feeds us with himself, and, with the most tender courtesy, does it by means of the Blessed Sacrament, the precious food of all true life.'

‘In essence motherhood means love and kindness, wisdom, knowledge, goodness. A kind, loving mother, who understands and knows the needs of her child, will look after it tenderly just because it is the nature of a mother to do so. As the child grows older she changes her methods, but not her love. Older still she allows the child to be punished so that its faults are corrected and its virtues and graces developed. Like this I could see that our indebtedness, under God, to fatherhood and motherhood – whether it be human or divine – is fully met in truly loving God.’

‘And he wants us to copy the child who always and naturally trusts mother’s love through thick and thin.’

Revelations of Divine Love is published by Penguin Classics.

Extracts selected by Neville Long

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.

Holy Week and Easter Services are on page 5 and in the Kalendar.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 1st March World Day of Prayer – see page 4

Thursdays 7th and 14th march- Lent Group continues – see page 5

Tuesday 19th March Copy deadline for April magazine

Saturday 23rd March Bible Journalling Retreat – see page 8

24th to 31st March Holy Week and Easter – see page 5

12th to 18th May Christian Aid Week

KALENDAR and READINGS MARCH 2024

Friday 1st March – David, Bishop, Patron of Wales, c.601 – **Toddler Church 10.30 a.m. – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.**

Saturday 2nd March – Chad of Lichfield, Bishop, 672

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

Monday 4th March – Adrian (Ethernan) of May, Abbot, and Companions, Martyrs, 875

Tuesday 5th March – Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot, 1167

Wednesday 6th March – Baldred of the Bass, Bishop, 608 – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Deuteronomy 4.1,5-10 Psalm 147.13-21 Matthew 5.17-20

Thursday 7th March – Perpetua and her companions, Martyrs, 203 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 8th March – Duthac, Bishop, 1065 – **Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.**

Sunday 10th March - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Mothering/Laetare Sunday) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Numbers 21.4-9 Psalm 107.2-3,17-22
Ephesians 2.1-10 John 3.14-21

Monday 11th March – Constantine, King and Martyr, 7th Century

Wednesday 13th March – Eucharist 10.30am

Readings: Isaiah 49.8-15 Psalm 145.8-15 John 5.19-30

Thursday 14th March – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

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

Saturday 16th March – Boniface of Ross, Bishop, c.710

Sunday 17th March – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Passion Sunday) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Jeremiah 31.31-34 Psalm 51.1-4,8-13
Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33

Lent changes gear this week as we enter Passiontide and fix our attention more

firmly on Jesus' coming Crucifixion and Resurrection. The crosses and images are veiled in purple to emphasis this, a sort of 'fast of the eyes'.

Monday 18th March – PATRICK, Bishop, Patron of Ireland, c. 461

Tuesday 19th March – JOSEPH OF NAZARETH

Wednesday 20th March – Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 687 – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Daniel 3.13-28 Psalm 24.1-6 John 8.31-47

Thursday 21st March – Benedict of Nursia, Abbot c.550 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 22nd March – Thomas Ken, Bishop, 1711 – **Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.**

Sunday 24th March – PALM SUNDAY – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. with blessing and distribution of palms

Readings: Isaiah 50.4-9a Psalm 31.9-16
Philippians 2.5-11 Matthew 27.11-54

Monday 25th March – MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK – Sung Compline at St Salvador's 7 p.m.

Tuesday 26th March – TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK – Sung Compline 7 p.m.

Wednesday 27th March – WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK – Eucharist 10.30 a.m. – Sung Compline at St Salvador's 7 p.m.

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

Thursday 28th March – MAUNDY THURSDAY – 7.30 p.m. EVENING EUCHARIST OF THE LORD'S SUPPER and Stripping of the Altar followed by a watch until midnight

Readings: Exodus 12.1-14 Psalm 116.1,10-17
1 Corinthians 11.23-26 John 13.1-17,31b-35

Friday 29th March – GOOD FRIDAY – Stations of the Cross at St Salvador's 10.30 a.m.

3 p.m. LITURGY OF THE PASSION, a joint service at Holy Cross with St David's, Pilton, including veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion from the reserved sacrament.

Readings: Isaiah 52.13-53.12 Psalm 22.1-2,7-8,14-18,21
Hebrews 4.14-16;5.7-9 John 18.1-19.42

The death of the Lord. The sacraments are not celebrated today.

Saturday 30th March – HOLY SATURDAY

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

THE EASTER VIGIL – the night of 30th–31st March, at St Salvador’s, beginning at 9 p.m.

The Resurrection of the Lord.

Sunday 31st March – EASTER DAY – Easter Sung Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Acts 10.34-43 Psalm 118.1-2,14-17,22-23
I Corinthians 15.1-11 John 20.1-18

Sunday 7th April – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings: Acts 4.32-35 Psalm 133
I John 1.1-2.2 John 20.19-31

Monday 8th April – THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD (transferred from 25th March)



