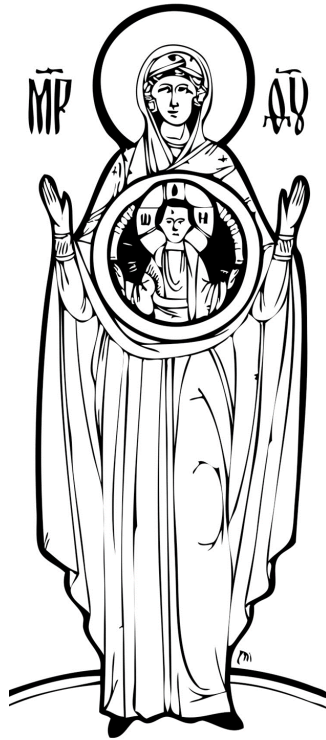


Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

MAY 2024



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

May is Mary's month. Gerard Manley Hopkins writes about it in the poem on page 4. There is something about spring that put Christians of past times in mind of Mary and her giving birth to new life for the world in Jesus. May is also the month when a new baby is due at the Rectory and Izzy and I thank you for your continuing love and support. I will be taking the statutory two months' paternity leave from the birth and during that time Fr Ross will be looking after Holy Cross and St Salvador's and, as usual, our church wardens will also be around to help. Waiting for a baby to be born and wondering what they will be like reminds us that we are not in charge and reminds us to pray and trust in the Lord.

When Bess was born in Cornwall a wonderful parishioner, the late Major Hugo White, sent me a card saying 'procreative growth is the best form of Church growth, Vicar'. Here at Holy Cross there are certainly many things going on which could contribute to other types of growth in our community. One is our new silent prayer group on Wednesday evenings, another is the Children's Concerts and another is the Fellowship Meal at the end of the month. Prayer, reaching out to the community and eating together all build up the Kingdom of God.

May Magnificat, like others of Hopkins' poems, celebrates nature and our faith together. They belong together as our God is both Creator and Redeemer. Mankind has not been good in caring for the world God gave us and all the evidence shows that we are living in a climate crisis with record temperatures, rising sea levels and a great increase in what climatologists coyly call 'extreme weather events'. In Mali temperatures have soared to almost 50 degrees in the past weeks and damage to agriculture in Africa, together with war, is fuelling poverty and migration. The response to this crisis is sometimes tinged with despair and an un-Christian hostility to humanity, but our faith can bring hope and inspire action.

We have a responsibility to care for creation and the Vestry has decided to support the creation of a Holy Cross Eco Group and to encourage us to work towards being an eco-congregation. This follows the Scottish Episcopal Church's commitment to turn away from fossil fuels and work towards 'net zero'. We will work out a way of doing this that is appropriate for Holy Cross, and it is encouraging to see that we are already part of the way there, for example in the use of our grounds. Alison Proud, who comes to our 9 a.m. Eucharist, writes more about this on page 10.

May is Mary's month and is a season of new life. The earth itself is often called a mother. Our faith is not just something we think about on Sundays, it should transform our families and the world around us,

with love and prayers,



May Magnificat by Gerard Manley Hopkins

May is Mary's month, and I
Muse at that and wonder why:
Her feasts follow reason,
Dated due to season—

Candlemas, Lady Day;
But the Lady Month, May,
Why fasten that upon her,
With a feasting in her honour?

Is it only its being brighter
Than the most are must delight her?
Is it opportunist
And flowers finds soonest?

Ask of her, the mighty mother:
Her reply puts this other Question:
What is Spring?—
Growth in every thing—

Flesh and fleece, fur and feather,
Grass and greenworld all together;
Star-eyed strawberry-breasted
Throstle above her nested

Cluster of bugle blue eggs thin
Forms and warms the life within;
And bird and blossom swell
In sod or sheath or shell.

All things rising, all things sizing
Mary sees, sympathising

With that world of good,
Nature's motherhood.

Their magnifying of each its kind
With delight calls to mind
How she did in her stored
Magnify the Lord.

Well but there was more than this:
Spring's universal bliss
Much, had much to say
To offering Mary May.

When drop-of-blood-and-foam-
dapple
Bloom lights the orchard-apple
And thicket and thorp are merry
With silver-surfed cherry

And azuring-over greybell makes
Wood banks and brakes wash wet
like lakes
And magic cuckoo-call
Caps, clears, and clinches all—

This ecstasy all through mothering
earth
Tells Mary her mirth till Christ's birth
To remember and exultation
In God who was her salvation.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism Klara Alexandra Duck, daughter of Andrew and Kasia of Craigcrook Road, on 21st April 2024

MAY EVENTS

The winter's sleep was long and deep,
But earth is awakened and gay;
For the light never dies that from God doth rise,
And the green comes after the grey.

Percy Dearmer 1867–1936

ROGATION SUNDAY

Sunday 5th May

Blessing of garden and grounds after 10.30 a.m. service.

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. Psalm 145



ASCENSION DAY

Thursday 9th May

Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

Evening prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

God is gone up with a merry noise, and our Lord with the sound of the trumpet. Psalm 47



THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Sunday 19th May

Services: 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. in Holy Cross;

3 p.m. ECUMENICAL SERVICE

on Silverknowes Promenade

organised by local churches including

Holy Cross and St David's,

Davidson's Mains Parish Church

and **St Margaret's RC Church**

MORE IN MAY

Saturday 11th May

**DIOCESAN BIG DAY, 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.
in the Cathedral (see opposite)**

Sunday 26th May – Trinity Sunday

**FELLOWSHIP MEAL after the 10.30 Sung Eucharist
Food provided – just bring £5 (plus your favourite tippie if
you want something other than water!)**

Numbers are helpful for catering. There will be sign-up sheets in church and hall about three weeks before the lunch, with space for volunteering to clear up after the meal. For more information contact Sarah or Jannette.

Children’s Concert, 2 p.m. in the church (see below)

Thursday 30th May – Corpus Christi

Day of Thanksgiving for the gift of the Eucharist

We are planning a joint service with St David’s either on this day or the following Saturday – news will be published on the website and pew sheet.

FAMILY CONCERTS

‘traditional tunes for tiny people’

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



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

28th April

26th May

30th June

28th July



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

DIOCESAN BIG DAY

Saturday 11th May

People from across Edinburgh Diocese are coming together at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 11th May for our 2024 Big Day. This year, our theme is 'Let Us Pray!' and aspires to have something for everyone to grow in their prayer life.

Attendees can arrive from 10.15 a.m. to enjoy some refreshments and fellowship, with worship starting at 10.45 a.m. There will be group sessions in the morning and afternoon, where people can explore different types of prayer or prayerful topics, including (but not limited to) Lectio Divina, imaginative prayer, the Jesus Prayer, Examen, prayer and movement, bible journalling, and the Lord's Prayer in British Sign Language. Fr Stephen will be leading a session at 11.20 a.m. on praying the 1982 Scottish Liturgy, and Br Joe will be leading a session at 1.50 p.m. on the Jesus Prayer.

After lunch we will be led in Taizé prayer and the day will end with sung compline. Throughout the day, individual prayer stations will be available, including the Cathedral's wildflower labyrinth, for anyone to use as they wish.

Everyone is most welcome to attend this free and family-friendly day. For catering purposes we ask that people sign up either individually or by congregation. Please follow the links on the [Diocese website](#) or use the QR code here:



And if you wake up on the Saturday morning and fancy coming along, please do join us: just know you will need to supply your own lunch!



Faith is a Verb: Diocesan Zoom Course

The Diocesan Advisor for Christian Life, Fee Reynolds, will be offering the 2023 Lent Course as a 'Pentecost Course' for anyone across the Diocese. It will take place on Zoom on Monday evenings, from 6.30 to 8 p.m. The first session will be on Monday 20th May and the final one on Monday 24th June. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Fee:

freynolds@dioceseofedinburgh.org or 0131 346 9089.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As I write this in the middle of April, we are seven months into our 2023/24 financial year. At the beginning of the financial year (September), we set a budget for us to break even and therefore maintain our reserves. Our position at the end of March however was worse than budgeted for.

Our expenditure to date is £47,487 which is £197 less than we budgeted, however our income to date is £43,959 which is £3,757 below what we budgeted for. As a result we are £3,560 below our planned budget. Within these totals, though, there are inevitably pluses and minuses where either I have estimated wrongly in our budget or where income or expenditure isn't evenly spread throughout the year.

Below I have picked out items where there are major variations from budget.

Income

Congregational giving is £723 below estimate. Many people pay monthly by Standing Order for which I am very grateful. Apart from providing a regular and predictable income it saves effort and anxiety for Welcomers, who no longer need to count and record the weekly cash/cheque collection and saves me the effort of weekly trips to the bank and time-consuming waits for a teller. If you still pay regularly by cash donation, it would be very helpful if you would consider setting up a regular Standing Order. (Please speak to me if I can help you with this. I do realise that for some people this is not possible.) Many of you who already pay by Standing Order have increased your giving over the last year or two. If you have been contributing the same monthly amount for a long time, I would ask you to consider if you can afford to increase it. Even a small increase is welcome; as Scots reputedly say, 'mony a mickle maks a muckle'.

Gift Aid was £5,950 below budget at the end of March, but this was not a cause for concern. I normally claim Gift Aid from HMRC twice annually and I had just completed our first claim for 2023/24, so, in April we received just under £9,000 from our friends in HMRC. (Not many people consider HMRC to be their friend!)

Hall rents are £1,279 below estimate. We have not yet found replacements for the Reindeer Playgroup and Oscar's After School Club, though we are hopeful that we will have a new after school club starting after the school summer holidays. We had predicted this shortfall in rent income in the budget we set. However, our Brownie and Guide groups have both fallen significantly behind with their rental payments. The rental these groups pay is heavily subsidised – we charge them around half of the commercial rate – but there is still a considerable shortfall due to us. I have raised this with

those concerned and hopefully we will receive payment soon. On the positive side we now have three Indian Syriac congregations using the church and hall and although they pay relatively modest contributions, it is another source of regular income.

We did budget for a small amount of fundraising income but have not held any specific events to date. Could anyone rise to the challenge? We need some innovative thinking.

On a positive note, grants, insurance claims and VAT recovery are currently double the amount budgeted for, mainly due to grants received for the hall, church, and the Rectory rewiring. The bills were paid in 2022/23 but the grants were not received until 2023/24. We don't expect any further grants in the current financial year so we will probably end the year matching our budget.

Expenditure

Repairs and maintenance costs are thankfully £3,056 below budget but this type of expenditure doesn't come evenly throughout the year and expenses can arise at any time.

Heat and light costs are £2,476 over budget and this is a major cause for concern to me. We were moved onto a new gas contract in mid-December which is more than twice as expensive as the previous contract. I am trying to find a way to cancel this contract and get a cheaper deal, but our broker (Bionic) and our Gas provider (British Gas Lite) are proving difficult to contact and reluctant to consider any options, so I fear we may be locked into this contract for two years. Fortunately, our gas usage over the summer months is dramatically less than in winter so the position shouldn't get much worse in the current financial year, but I do have serious concerns for our costs in 2024/25.

Quota payments are £539 over budget but we were owed £956 by the Diocese due to an overpayment last year so this is not a cause for concern. (I have subsequently received a refund from the Diocese.)

Like many, we face financial challenges, but our congregation has always risen to the challenge up until now. Thank you for your continued support.

Colin Mair, Treasurer

18th April 2024

Thank you to Colin for all his efforts to keep our finances on track.

NEW NET ZERO ECO GROUP AT HOLY CROSS

It is wonderful news that at the Vestry meeting last week it was agreed to set up a Net Zero Eco group at Holy Cross Church. This is another step on our path towards meeting the objectives of the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) [Net Zero Toolkit](#). In the words of the Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus:

‘The College of Bishops commends the Net Zero Toolkit to all the dioceses, charges, congregations, and individual members of the Scottish Episcopal Church, and asks us all to engage with the Toolkit without delay and begin to make real change now. It is offered as the first place to look for guidance on the actions they can take in their buildings and congregational life, now and over the years leading up to 2030.’

I have volunteered to be Convener of the group and this was kindly approved by Vestry. The Net Zero Eco Group will be responsible for the paperwork, administration, planning and reporting that is involved. We will act as Champions and Encouragers to help our Holy Cross Church community achieve the objectives set out in the Net Zero Toolkit. But it’s all of us, working together, that will get the actions achieved – not the group. If you have a heart for the environment and the climate crisis and you’re interested in joining the Net Zero Eco group, please get in touch with me.

The Net Zero Tool Kit covers ten categories (or ‘Petals’ in the SEC vocabulary) (see page 11). Each category has suggested associated actions and target objectives. Wonderfully, many actions are already covered! A big thank you to our church members who care for our gardens and grounds, as they already cover most of the suggested actions beautifully in the ‘Thriving Biodiversity’ category; and another thank you to Fr Stephen and Vestry members who’ve already put in a lot of work in the ‘Energy Efficiency Improvements’ category.

One of the tasks under the ‘Build A Movement’ category is to join [Eco-Congregation Scotland](#), a Christian charity addressing climate change and conservation, that came out of the Church of Scotland in 2001. It has an established award scheme and Holy Cross is already close to being able to achieve a Bronze Award! The Vestry has approved us joining and aiming towards getting the Bronze Award.

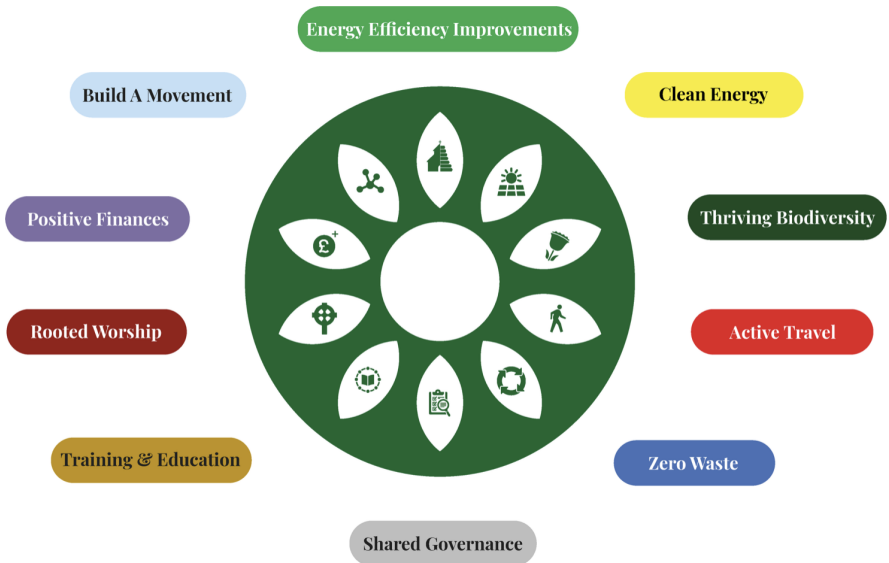
For more details see:

Scottish Episcopal Net Zero Tool Kit <https://toolkit.secnetzero.org>

Eco-Congregation Scotland www.ecocongregationscotland.org

Together we can help our church, and each other, to move as close as we

practically can towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030, to help limit the changes to the environment and to begin to restore the balance in Creation!



By Alison Proud: alisonproud@yahoo.com

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

5th May	Jane Allen
12th May	?
19th May	?
28th May	?



Flower Rota 2024 is on the noticeboard. As you can see above, there are more gaps than names! Please sign up for any Sundays when you would like to be responsible for the flowers. A simple bunch of flowers in a vase of water is fine if you lack flower arranging skills. If you have not done the flowers before, Sarah is happy to advise.

Sarah and her team do a wonderful job of ensuring that there are flowers every Sunday, but the work should not all be left to them!

If you would like to donate the flowers but cannot arrange them yourself please speak to Sarah (sarahmillee@aol.com or 237 5147).

SILENT PRAYER

A CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP

On a Wednesday evening between 8 p.m. and 8.45 p.m. a group of us gather in the church for silent prayer. We meet in the presence of God and sit in silence for 40 minutes, with no more than a few words at the beginning and end, such as a Bible verse or the Lord's Prayer. This is led by Duncan Hughes and all are welcome to come and join us. If you need more information about this, speak to Fr Stephen or contact Duncan on dghughessc@gmail.com or 07515 945914. No need to book or commit to coming each week.

Contemplative prayer brings you closer to God, transforms the world, and is even good for your mental health. 'Be still and know that I am God.'

OUR SANCTUARY LAMP

Remembering departed loved ones

The small flame in our new sanctuary lamp burns continually in our church as a sign of prayer and presence, and it is possible to sponsor the lamp for a month in memory of a loved one. If you would like to do this, please send their name to the Rector or sign up on the sheet on the noticeboard in church. It can be done at a suggested minimum donation of £15, which covers the cost of the candles. There are vacancies in June, September and December.

In July the lamp will burn in memory of Renée Ghiron and Dorothy Elvin; in August in memory of David Page; in October in memory of Neil Harrison; and in November in memory of Helen Perrie and Mary Dennis.

SACRAMENTS

– prayers please for:

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.

Jowita Thor and **Ivan Bokii** who will be married at Holy Cross on Saturday 27th July.

ST SALVADOR'S FOOD BANK

Thanks to all who donate food or money to the St Salvador's Food Initiative. Food can be placed in the big black box and items particularly needed are rice, cooking oil, tins of tuna, packets of sweet biscuits and those cheap instant noodle packs. Thank you!



We are planning to add a drop-in meeting space after each session of the food bank.

CHRISTIAN AID BOOK SALE

Please note that there will be **NO BOOK SALE** at St Andrew's and St George's West this May. The organisers hope to hold an autumn sale.

There will be a book sale at Morningside United Church (Holy Corner) on Saturday 11th May from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 12th May from 1 to 5 p.m. and Monday 13th May from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.. They already have quantities of books, so no donations, please – just come and buy.

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**
8.00 p.m. to 8.45 p.m. Silent Prayer: A
Contemplative Prayer Group

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)**

Izzy is on leave – busy producing the next generation of toddlers – but Toddler Church continues in term time thanks to our team of helpers.

First Friday in the month, 2 p.m. Healing Eucharist with anointing

KALENDAR and READINGS MAY 2024

Rogation Days are the three days before the Ascension & 25th April when there would traditionally be a procession to bless the fields and crops. Celebrated since the sixth century, they replaced a Roman procession to pray for agricultural protection. In the Anglican tradition Rogation Sunday is the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

Ember Days are three days of prayer and fasting in each of the four seasons of the year, this month in the week after Pentecost; like Rogation Days they originally involved prayer for crops and fields but as Ember Saturdays were often used for ordinations, they are now days of prayer for vocations.

Wednesday 1st May – SS Philip and James, Apostles – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m. – Silent Prayer 8.00 p.m. to 8.45 p.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 30.18-21 Psalm 119.1-8
2 Corinthians 4.1-6 John 14.6-14

Thursday 2nd May – St Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church – **5 p.m. Evening Prayer on Zoom**

Friday 3rd May – Finding of the Holy Cross – **Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.**

Sunday 5th May – **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Rogation Sunday)** – **Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. with procession and blessing of the gardens**

Readings: Acts 10.44-48 Psalm 98
1 John 5.1-6 John 15.9-17

Monday 6th May – Rogation Day, St John before the Latin Gate

Tuesday 7th May – Rogation Day

Wednesday 8th May – Rogation Day, Julian of Norwich – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m. – Silent Prayer 8.00 p.m. to 8.45 p.m.**

Readings: Acts 17.15,22-18.8 Psalm 138 John 16.4b-11

Thursday 9th May – **ASCENSION DAY** – **Eucharist 10.30 am. Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

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

Saturday 11th May – **The Big Day, 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. in the Cathedral**, a day of prayer and teaching on prayer for the whole diocese.

Sunday 12th May – **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** – **Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Acts 1.15-17,21-26 ¹⁴Psalm 1
1 John 5.9-13 John 17.6-19

Tuesday 14th May, ST MATTHIAS, APOSTLE

Wednesday 15th May, St Pachomius, Abbot – Eucharist 10.30 a.m. – Silent Prayer 8.00 p.m. to 8.45 p.m.

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

Thursday 16th May, St Brendan the Voyager – 5 p.m. Evening Prayer on Zoom

Sunday 19th May – THE DAY OF PENTECOST Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Ecumenical Service on Silverknowes Promenade

Readings: Acts 2.1-21 Psalm 104.25-35,37
Romans 8.22-27 John 15.26-27;16.4b-15

Tuesday 21st May, St Helena, Protector of the Holy Places

Wednesday 22nd May, Ember Day – Eucharist 10.30 a.m. – Silent Prayer 8.00 p.m. to 8.45 p.m.

Readings: James 4.13-14 Psalm 49.1-9,16-20 Mark 9.38-41

Thursday 23rd May, St William of Perth, Pilgrim – 5 p.m. Evening Prayer on Zoom

Friday 24th May – Ember Day – Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.

Saturday 25th May – Ember Day – St Bede the Venerable

Sunday 26th May – TRINITY SUNDAY – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. – Fellowship Meal – Children's Concert 2 p.m.

Readings: Isaiah 6.1-8 Psalm 29.1-4,9-11
Romans 8.12-17 John 3.1-17

Monday 27th May, St Augustine of Canterbury

Wednesday 29th May – Eucharist 10.30 a.m. – Silent Prayer 8.00 p.m. to 8.45 p.m.

Readings: 1 Peter 1.18-22.1 Psalm 147.13-21 Mark 10.32-45

Thursday 30th May – CORPUS CHRISTI – 5 p.m. Evening Prayer on Zoom

Friday 31st May, VISITATION OF MARY TO ELIZABETH – Toddler Church 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 2nd June – Pentecost 2 – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Deuteronomy 5.12-15 Psalm 81.1-5,8-10
2 Corinthians 4.5-12 15th Mark 2.23-3.6

