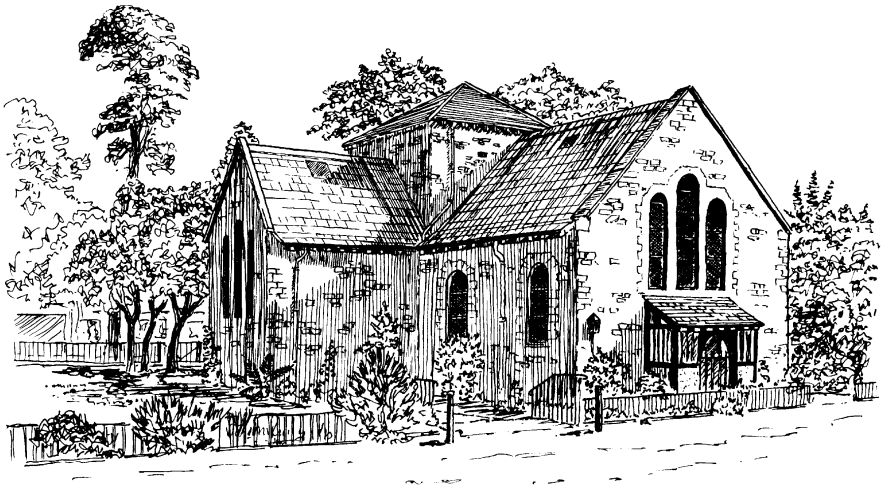


Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

JULY/AUGUST 2024



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

This is a time of transition in the life of Holy Cross and the life of my family. On Sunday 16th June I announced in Church that I would be leaving Holy Cross and St Salvador's to take up the post of Provost of St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth. This also happened to be the first time Izzy and I took our new daughter Mary Sophia Heather, who had been born on Trinity Sunday, to Church. We want to thank those of you who have supported us during the pregnancy and birth with your prayers, help and presents. I'm sorry the announcement had to coincide with introducing Mary to you, but it had to be coordinated so that the Cathedral, St Salvador's and Holy Cross all heard at the same time.

I thought it would be good to explain my new role. A Provost is the senior priest of a Cathedral and works with the Bishop as part of the diocesan leadership team. In England a Provost is called a Dean, whereas in Scotland the Dean of the diocese fulfils a role similar to an English Archdeacon, being the Bishop's agent in the diocese as a whole. If you need to know more, read the Barchester novels of Anthony Trollope. I will be working with Bishop Ian Paton of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, with whom I worked over a decade ago when we were both at Old St Paul's. St Ninian's was consecrated in 1850 and is the first new cathedral to be built in Britain since the Protestant Reformation, St Paul's in London being just a rebuild. St Ninian's Cathedral was built by Scots inspired by the Catholic Revival of the Oxford Movement in the Church of England, and, as such, was a centre of controversy in the Fair City where John Knox began his career as a wrecker of churches. Today it has a Catholic and Choral Episcopalian tradition, an active concern for the disadvantaged and for the environment, and is closely involved in the life of the City. Scotland has three Episcopalian Primary Schools and one is linked to the Cathedral. The Cathedral is also associated with Peter Rabbit, but that is a long story.

Izzy and I are excited to be moving to the Cathedral but also sad to be leaving Holy Cross, where we have become part of the local community as well as of the church community. We have enjoyed our time here, much has been done, and it is a great place to bring up children. We have also enjoyed being part of the St Salvador's family. In normal circumstances I would not have even considered leaving until after Fr Ross had finished his curacy but in Christianity there are two types of time, each signified by a Greek word: *Chronos*, meaning calendar time, and *Kairos*, meaning God's time. If a call comes, one has to respond to it, and this move certainly has all the

ingredients of a divine vocation. This decision was made easier by Ross being such a competent priest.

My last Sunday at Holy Cross will be 25th August (my last Sunday at St Salvador's will be 11th August) and my institution and installation at St Ninian's will be on Sunday 15th September, when they keep St Ninian's Day, at 3 p.m. You are invited to come up if you wish. After 25th August, Bishop John and Dean Frances will meet with the Vestry to plan the transition and the search for a new Rector. I will have a meeting with Bishop John in July when we will discuss the needs of Holy Cross, Ross and St Salvador's. The agreement between Holy Cross and St Salvador's is linked to me as Ross's training Rector but I trust that Ross will continue his curacy at both churches thus providing continuity. Bishop John will appoint an interim pastor for Holy Cross and St Salvador's and a training Rector for Ross, who may be a different person. Whatever happens will be done in consultation with the two Vestries. Please pray for and offer your support to our Vestry and Church Wardens as they will have a lot to do in the coming months.

We have had good years here and I have confidence that I leave Holy Cross in a good place for the future, a challenging future in a Scotland where many churches are declining or closing. Thank you for your generosity and for working together with us to achieve this, and thanks above all to God for enabling the work. My annual reports have the details but our numbers are up and there has been a remarkably generous increase in giving, 30% last year and 20% the year before. We have faced together a number of challenges: the failure of our boilers in winter five years ago, the pandemic and lockdowns, the need to rewire the hall and parts of the church and rectory, and the closure of the after-school club and playgroup which lost us a large part of our income. I'm pleased to say that our new after-school club, Daddy Daycare, will start in August. Many of you have helped us through the challenges, but I want to say special thanks to Colin Mair who has been an unfailing support and an excellent treasurer.

When appointed five years ago, I was asked to reconnect Holy Cross to the wider community and to the diocese. Much has been done, largely through building partnerships, and there are great opportunities for my successor. We have worked closely with the Davidsons Mains Christmas Lights Committee, filled our church with music during the Christmas Fayre, and supported the local Scouts, for example allowing them to park their trailer in our car park. This is not done for a reward, but the Lights Committee did a great job clearing the edges of our car park at Christmas, and, when a tree came down last month, the Pink Panthers Explorer Scouts came with a

chainsaw and cleared it away, fortified by fish suppers provided by Colin and Sally Mair. A Church has a choice. Is it a small and declining group of elderly friends who meet on a Sunday morning, sing a few hymns and have a cup of tea together, or is it an outward-looking group of people of all ages fired-up by the gospel, perhaps including many prayerful and inspiring older folk, who welcome others to worship with them and serve the community?

A key part of making us an outward-looking Church has been our children's ministry and for this we should thank Izzy Armstrong-Holmes, our children's minister. She has created Toddler Church, run summer activities for local families, sat on the Lights Committee, and established a very successful series of free children's concerts in partnership with the charity Live Music Now Scotland. This work has been commended at national and diocesan level and has been much appreciated in the community and I hope some of it can continue and develop.

A flourishing church, however, is not just about the young. It is essentially about our relationship with God, and I should mention here that much of our children's ministry is about helping children grow in the faith. Soon after arriving I discovered that Holy Cross is supported by those among us I call 'the mystics', people who take prayer seriously. Adding new services such as the 9 a.m. Mass on Sundays and the Friday Healing Service has developed this spiritual core of our life and helped other people join our community. Not everyone comes to our Sunday Sung Eucharist and one of the joys of the past few years has been taking Holy Communion to people at home. This has even resulted in Holy Cross gaining new members.

This Rector's Letter has become a review of the past five years as I look forward to ministry in Perth and you look towards appointing a new Rector. It is important to recognise how Holy Cross has developed because a Christian community either grows or it dies, it can't stay the same. Today in Scotland 'to end well' is the vocation of many churches, but I do not believe this is the calling of Holy Cross. With a beautiful Church in a garden at the heart of a lively community it has a great future, but only if you support it. I have already noted your financial generosity. We also have a level of volunteering greater than many churches, but we are also a community of about eighty regular worshippers of whom only just over thirty are present each Sunday and sometimes just over twenty. One of the joys of ministry here is that I often know why people aren't present. We are all busy with work and family and travel, but at the same time the old saying is true, 'use it or lose it'. However good the new Rector is, Holy Cross will only have a future if you make it happen.

There will be time before we go to say our goodbyes and our thanks. Here I want to reflect on what we have done and to thank you for your welcome and your support in this great task of making Christ known to the people of North-West Edinburgh. It has had its challenges but also many joys. May Christ our God continue to bless this small corner of his vineyard and raise up a new pastor after his own heart, and may his Mother Mary, who looks on us every day from the icon and east window, ensure that our Church may be a home and place of welcome for many.

With love and prayers,



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

7th July	Nicole Elvin	4th August	?
14th July	?	11th August	?
21st July	Jenny Harrison	18th August	?
28th July	?	25th August	?



HELP!! There are still a lot of gaps on the **Flower Rota 2024** on the noticeboard. Please sign up. A simple bunch of flowers in a vase of water is fine if you lack the skills for a more complex arrangement. 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 or 237 5147).

OUR NEW SANCTUARY LAMP Remembering departed loved ones

The small flame in our 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 for next year.

In July the lamp will burn in memory of Renée Ghiron and Dorothy Elvin and in August in memory of David Page.

HOLY CROSS BARBECUE
Sunday 25th August
(Fr Stephen's last Sunday)
after the Sung Eucharist



If you would like to help in any way, please contact Alan Kirkpatrick (details on the inside front cover). Numbers are helpful for catering.

SACRAMENTS
– prayers please for:

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

Bonnie Carol Storar who will be baptised at Holy Cross on the afternoon of Saturday 10th August, and her parents Alison (née Mair) and Stuart Storar.

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the end of May we are 9 months into our financial year which runs from 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024, and I am pleased to report that we are on track to meet our budget and break even for the year.

Income is £999 better than forecast: Congregational giving is slightly below forecast but this is offset by better-than-expected gift aid recoveries. Hall rents are £1,534 below budget but we are still expecting a significant payment from the Guides who have fallen behind with their rent payments. The shortfall in hall rents is offset by grants which are £3,114 better than we forecast.

Expenditure is £303 better than forecast: Repairs and Maintenance costs are down £3,853 and I hope that we don't have any further work to do. Heat and Light costs are £4,492 worse than forecast due to a huge increase in gas prices, but our quota payments are £739 less than forecast thanks to an unexpected refund of £957 – I had mistakenly overpaid last year!

Overall, we are £1,302 better off than forecast and we can heave a sigh of relief and anticipate that we will end the financial year with our reserves intact.

Colin Mair, Treasurer, 18th June 2024

FAMILY CONCERT

'traditional tunes for tiny people'

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



2 p.m.

Sunday 28th July



No need to book. The concert is free but
donations are welcome towards refurbishing our community hall.



For more information contact Izzy, Children's Minister: 07464 611553
families.hce@gmail.com

TODDLER CHURCH MEMORIES

We have reached the end of the school year, which means Toddler Church has finished. This time, however, it isn't just finishing for the summer; our meeting on 21st June was the last Toddler Church for the foreseeable future. The parents, grandparents and helpers kept the sessions running this term while I was on maternity leave, but most of the regular families are now moving on, with children starting school or full-time nursery, and I am moving on too, so Toddler Church won't restart come the autumn.

Toddler Church has been running since February 2022. I originally called it 'Buggy Service', an updated version of the 'Pram Service' that was around when I was a child. However, after a few months of typing 'Buggy Service: church for toddlers and their grown-ups', a rather more obvious solution presented itself: Toddler Church!

For the first year or so the attendees mostly changed from week to week. Then a group of parents with older pre-schoolers came along together, already friends from nursery, and we had dressing up games and stories acted out through songs and movement. After they left en masse, to start P1 at school or full time nursery, I wondered what would happen.

People kept coming along and the group settled into something different. Where we had mostly four- and five-year olds before, who asked me tricky questions, invented games together, and wanted to MOVE, now the oldest child was a quiet three-year-old and we regularly had babies attending. I

changed the circle-time liturgy to suit them, and gradually the community settled into a core of families who attended regularly. They got to know one another and we talked in more depth each week about parenting and faith.

Throughout all of this time, Toddler Church has been a place where parents can meet up for free, in a relaxed environment with low-key activities. The feedback I've received about Toddler Church, and also the summer activities I ran, emphasised how unusual all three of those aspects are in activities for this age group: free, relaxed and low-key. It was important to me from the start to offer a warm and inviting space with very few expectations placed on the parents. They could turn up and just 'be', while we made them a hot drink and their children pottered about. When I initially prayed about what to do with Children's Ministry at Holy Cross, when I was trying out family services which clearly weren't working but had no idea what else to try, the answer that came to me was to stop focussing on the children and think about the parents, the adults. Like me, they had been through lockdown and were isolated, but their (our) children weren't used to socialising, so many toddler activities were overwhelming, and many parents were struggling with poor mental health. Toddler Church was a place where we could meet other parents and our children could learn to socialise. The friendships and the discussions about faith and church grew from those simple beginnings.

There is much more I could write about Toddler Church but our magazine editor, Margaret, has had to deal with far too many of my long articles before! So to finish, I will share the words of four of the families who have been coming to Toddler Church most weeks for the last year or so:

"We have enjoyed coming to Toddler Church every Friday morning – making friends, playing, fun and happiness. The church is a fun area for the children to sing and dance too. We also had times in the garden with treasure hunts in the summer. ... A favourite is parachute games and bubbles in the chancel, as well as our weekly prayer and story together. ... It's a beautiful, safe space to explore and be inspired and refreshed. ... The children have been nurtured by their time and have developed lovely friendships."

Izzy Armstrong-Holmes



THANK YOU



You may have noticed that the towering yellow rose entwined with honeysuckle which stood by the car park gate has somewhat reduced in size!

I had a phone call from Anne Williams this morning, 30th May, to say (I thought) that the rose had come down as a result of the recent storms and was blocking the area to the side of the hall. When we went to have a look later in the day, we realised that in fact the cherry tree which had acted as its support, and which was actually fairly dead, had come down too. Fortunately, although it had landed on the bins, it had fallen into a fairly contained area within the carpark and not in the other direction onto the road or across the gate. None the less, it was a hazard and our hearts sank at having to find someone to clear it for us.

I contacted Helen Smith, as the trailer which sits in that area by the shed belongs to the Scouts. I was concerned that it was blocked in and that they might need to get it out as the Camping season had begun. I had a wonderful text message back from Helen very quickly, saying, don't worry Fraser is going to go up with a chain saw this evening to clear the tree!

I had contact with Fraser who in fact has professional experience of such things. You may remember that the Lights Committee have done lots of work for us in the past on gardening days and in the car park. Fraser told me he'd done a risk assessment and would be there with some of the older Scouts, his chain saw and some sets of loppers at around 5.30.

Colin and I felt we couldn't leave it all to the Scouts so set off, armed with strong gardening gloves - I thought we would need them as not only do very mature roses have sharp thorns but there are also lots of brambles in the area not to mention nettles.

We arrived just before Fraser who had had to go to buy petrol for the chainsaw. The Scouts started to arrive too. We realised the task was going to be a lot bigger than we first thought. For a start we couldn't actually see the tree trunk for the thick stems of ivy winding around it. We all set to though and in less than an hour had the bulk of the foliage removed. Fraser then continued with his chainsaw and we managed to clear the area where it had fallen.

The Scouts then proceeded to get almost all of the debris into their trailer and are going to take it to the tip for us. They raked the ground, straightened the bins and left the place looking great. All this in less than 24 hours since the tree came down.

We are hugely in their debt. To have employed a company to do what has been done would have cost us a lot of money and would certainly have taken more time. Colin and I thanked them profusely and treated those who were there at the end to suppers from the Corbie.

Once again, a huge thank you, to Fraser Dunmore and the Craigmmond Pink Panther Explorers Unit.

Further to this, I have had a message from a hall neighbour, who overlooks the carpark gate and saw the tree coming down. They have said they would like to contribute to the costs of replacing the tree. I think that is a matter for further discussion as there is still a lot of clearing to be done in the area, before we can think about replanting. We think there may already be another very old tree in there, possibly also in need of removal!

Sally

PS You may also be glad to hear that the rose and the honeysuckle are still there and will hopefully continue to flower, if not this season then next. I think it's a very long time since they had been pruned.



Before



After



'A Scout's duty is to be useful and help others.' *Scout Law 3 - Scouting for Boys* by Robert Baden-Powell 1908. It's good to know that some things don't change.

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 in church; items particularly needed are rice, cooking oil, tins of tuna, packets of sweet biscuits and those cheap instant noodle packs. If in doubt, consult the clergy, who are regularly involved. Thank you!



The shape of the food bank has changed with the food bank proper running from 12 to 1 p.m., followed by a drop-in space with tea and coffee until 2 p.m. This is to meet the needs of the visitors, some of whom just need food while others enjoy a blether.

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. All are welcome to come and join us. 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.'

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. Contemplative Prayer

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.

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

KALENDAR and READINGS JULY/AUGUST 2024

Monday 1st July – Serf, Bishop, c.500

Wednesday 3rd July – St Thomas, Apostle - **Eucharist 10.30 a.m. - Silent Prayer 8.00 - 8.45 p.m.**

Readings Habakkuk 2.1-4 Psalm 126
Hebrews 10.35-11.1 John 20.24-29

Thursday 4th July – *General Election* – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 5th July – **Eucharist for Healing 2 p.m.**

Saturday 6th July – Palladius, Bishop, 450

SUNDAY 7th July – **PENTECOST 7** - **Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Ezekiel 2.1-5 Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12.2-10 Mark 6.1-13

Tuesday 9th July – Our Lady of Aberdeen

Wednesday 10th July – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m. - Silent Prayer 8.00 - 8.45 p.m.**

Readings: Hosea 10.1-3,7-8,12 Psalm 105.1-7 Matthew 10.1-7

Thursday 11th July – Benedict of Nursia, Abbot, c.550 – **5 p.m. Evening Prayer on Zoom**

Friday 12th July – Drostan of Deer, Abbot, c.660

SUNDAY 14th July - **PENTECOST 8** – **Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Amos 7.7-15 Psalm 85.8-13
Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 6.14-29

Monday 15th July – Bonaventure, Franciscan and Teacher of the Faith, 1274

Tuesday 16th July – Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Wednesday 17th July – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 10.5-7,13-16 Psalm 94.5-15 Matthew 11.25-27

Thursday 18th July – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 19th July – Macrina the Younger, Deaconess and Teacher of the Faith, 379

Saturday 20th July – Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 304

SUNDAY 21st July – PENTECOST 9 - Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Jeremiah 23.1-6 Psalm 23
Ephesians 2.11-22 Mark 6.30-34,53-56

Monday 22nd July – MARY MAGDALENE

Tuesday 23rd July – Bridget of Sweden, Abbess, 1373

Wednesday 24th July – Eucharist 10.30 a.m. - Silent Prayer 8.00 - 8.45 p.m.

Readings: Jeremiah 1.1,4-10 Psalm 71.1-6,15-17 Matthew 13.1-9

Thursday 25th July – ST JAMES, APOSTLE – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 26th July – Joachim and Anna, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 27th July – John Comper of Aberdeen, Priest, 1903 – 3 p.m.

Wedding of Jowita Thor and Ivan Bokii

SUNDAY 28th July - PENTECOST 10 – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. - Free Children's Concert 2 p.m.

Readings: 2 Kings 4.42-44 Psalm 145.10-19
Ephesians 3.14-21 John 6.1-21

Monday 29th July – Martha, Mary and Lazarus, hosts of the Lord

Tuesday 30th July – Silas, Companion of Paul

Wednesday 31st July – Ignatius of Loyola, Priest and Religious, 1556 – Eucharist 10.30 a.m. Silent Prayer 8.00 - 8.45 p.m.

Readings: Jeremiah 15.10.15-21 Psalm 59.1-4,18-20 Matthew 13.44-46

Thursday 1st August – Lammas Day (St Peter in Chains) – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 2nd August – Eucharist for Healing 2 p.m.

SUNDAY 4th August - THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Daniel 7.9-10,13-14 Psalm 99
2 Peter 1.16-19 Luke 9.28-36

Monday 5th August – Oswald of Northumbria, Martyr, 642

Tuesday 6th August (*Transfiguration transferred to Sunday 4th*)

Wednesday 7th August – John Mason Neale, Priest, 1866 – Eucharist 10.30 a.m. - Silent Prayer 8.00 - 8.45 p.m.

Readings: Jeremiah 31.1-7 Psalm 102.16-22 Matthew 15.21-28

Thursday 8th August – Dominic, Priest and Friar, 1221 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 9th August – Edith Stein, Carmelite, Teacher of the Faith, Martyr, 1942

Saturday 10th August – Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr, 258 – **Afternoon - Baptism of Bonnie Carol Storar**

SUNDAY 11th August - PENTECOST 12 – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: I Kings 19.4-8 Psalm 34.1-8
Ephesians 4.25-5.2 John 6.35,41-51

Monday 12th August – Blane, Bishop, c.600

Tuesday 13th August – Jeremy Taylor, Bishop, 1667

Wednesday 14th August – Maximilien Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, 1941 – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m. Silent Prayer 8.00 - 8.45 p.m.**

Readings: Ezekiel 9.1-7;10.18-22 Psalm 113 Matthew 18.15-20

Thursday 15th August (*Assumption transferred to Sunday 18th*) – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

SUNDAY 18th August, THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 7.10-15 Psalm 132.6-10,13-14
Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 1.46-55

Tuesday 20th August – Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot, Teacher of the Faith, 1153

Wednesday 21st August – Eucharist 10.30 a.m. - Silent Prayer 8.00 - 8.45 p.m.

Readings: Ezekiel 34.1-11 Psalm 23 Matthew 20.1-16a

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

Saturday 24th August – ST BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

SUNDAY 25th August - PENTECOST 14 - Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Fr Stephen's last service - Holy Cross Barbecue after the 10.30 Sung Eucharist.

Readings: Joshua 24.1-2a,14-18 Psalm 34.15-22
Ephesians 6.10-20 15|John 6.56-69

Tuesday 27th August – Monica, mother of St Augustine, 387

Wednesday 28th August – St Augustine of Hippo, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 430 – **Eucharist 10.30 a.m. Silent Prayer 8.00 - 8.45 p.m.**

Readings: 2 Thessalonians 3.6-10,16-18 Psalm 128 Matthew 23.27-32

Thursday 29th August – BEHEADING OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST –
Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Saturday 31st August – St Aidan of Lindisfarne, Bishop

SUNDAY 1st September - PENTECOST 15

Readings: Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9 Psalm 15
James 1.17-27 Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23

