

# Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

SEPTEMBER 2024



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Rector** Vacant

**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 curate serves Holy Cross and St Salvador's, Stenhouse.*

**Interim Pastor** to be appointed by the Bishop

**Rector's Warden** Mr Alan Kirkpatrick

**People's Warden** Mrs Sally Mair

**Vestry Secretary** Mrs Nicole Elvin

**Treasurer and  
Gift Aid Secretary** Mr Colin Mair

**Magazine Editor** Mrs Margaret Deas  
[margaretanndeas@btinternet.com](mailto:margaretanndeas@btinternet.com)

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All material should reach the Editor by then.

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## RECTOR'S (LAST) LETTER

Dear friends,

This is my last letter as Rector of Holy Cross and I want to thank you all for your kindness to me and to my family over the last four and a half years. You have watched Bess grow up so that she is now ready to start school this year and have welcomed Mary into the church community. Together we have got through the challenges of lockdown and done remarkable things so that Holy Cross is now in good shape, with new partnerships and relationships with the local community, and ready to welcome a new Rector.

In an increasingly secular Scotland if churches are to survive they have to drink deep from the genuine wells of Christian teaching and spirituality. An essential part of this is repentance, that turning from sin to Christ which defines a Christian. In the spirit of repentance I apologise to anyone I have wronged and beg your pardon and prayers.

You have a good team to lead Holy Cross through the transition. I am writing in August when we don't know who the interim pastor will be, but Alan and Sally, our church wardens, Fr Ross, our curate, Colin, our treasurer and David, our organist, are already getting ready to provide the leadership you need, supported by Bishop John and Dean Frances and by other members of the Vestry and all those who do the many tasks that keep Holy Cross running. Pastoral cover will be provided by Ross, and by Sally and Jean who have been licensed to lead services when a priest is not present and bring Holy Communion to those who can't get to church. Behind this is the essential ministry of prayer and I am pleased that, in addition to the Eucharist and Thursday online Evening Prayer, the silent prayer group will continue to meet.

God willing, a new Rector will be appointed soon next year and I am sure you will give them the support I have received. He or she will have new and different talents and abilities and will, I pray, be able to lead Holy Cross into a bright future at the heart of the local community. Please pray for us and for St Ninian's Cathedral and the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, and we will continue to pray for you.

with love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath.

## AFTERWORD FROM STEPHEN

Dear friends at Holy Cross,

I'm writing this on the afternoon of Sunday 25th August after a very moving and emotional service in the morning and an enjoyable barbecue afterwards. It was lovely to see so many of you there and sad to say farewell, though I look forward to seeing some of you at my institution. Thank you for the lovely card and VERY generous cheque. Izzy and I will buy something special with it which we will keep to remind us of Holy Cross and your love, kindness and generosity. Bess said how much she will miss you and Holy Cross (which is a great place for dancing!). Thanks for giving her such a positive experience of church. Let's pray for each other and if you are ever passing through Perth you will be welcome at St Ninian's Cathedral!

*Stephen*



*One more step along the world I go,  
One more step along the world I go;  
From the old things to the new  
Keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
Keep me travelling along with you.*

*S Carter*



## STEPHEN'S INSTITUTION & INSTALLATION AS PROVOST

**St Ninian's Cathedral  
Perth**

**Sunday 15th September  
3 p.m.**

This is the Sunday nearest to St Ninian's Day, as well as being our own patronal festival here at Holy Cross.

Members of Holy Cross are welcome to attend the service in Perth. St Ninian's is in North Methven Street in central Perth.

Whether or not we are able to be there, we wish Stephen and the family well in their new life.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

**Baptism:** Bonnie Carol Storar (daughter of Alison (nee Mair) and Stuart Storar) on 10th August.

**Marriage:** Jowita Thor and Ivan Bokii on 27th July.

## DURING THE VACANCY

The search is beginning for our new Rector, but it may take a while before Stephen's replacement is found. In the meantime, we shall be in the care of an Interim Pastor, to be appointed by the Bishop. As we go to press, we do not yet know who this will be.

Ross our Curate will continue to divide his time between St Salvador's and Holy Cross. When he is not here in Davidson's Mains there will be a selection of visiting clergy – some old friends and others new to us. We thank them all for giving up their time. Some services will be lay-led.

It is planned that services will continue at all the normal times (*see page 9*). If for any reason there is to be no service this will be flagged up in the previous Sunday's pew sheet.

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to Neville, Sarah and Yvonne for donating and/or arranging the flowers to fill the gaps over the summer.

1st September	Margaret Deas
8th September	Yvonne Boughton
15th September	Denise Humphries
22nd September	Sarah Millée
29th September	?



**HELP!!** There are still a lot of gaps later in the year on the **Flower Rota** 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](mailto:sarahmillee@aol.com)) and the flower team will do the arranging. Just give them a bit of notice – they do have lives beyond the flower vases.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

We had three bits of good news last week.

On Wednesday 14th August a new After School Club started and will pay us over £11,000 per annum for use of the hall each afternoon, Monday to Thursday.

On Thursday morning a Pilates Club started paying us around £1,000 per annum. This income is very welcome, and it is great to have the hall well used. On the downside, we have had to increase our cleaning and our gas usage will increase dramatically but we will still be much better off than we were when the hall was empty.

The other good news relates to our gas contract. In December we moved on to a new tariff which was more than double the price of the old one. I have spent countless hours negotiating with British Gas and have now persuaded them to cancel the contract. We have now switched to EDF Energy on a three-year deal and the tariff is 40% lower than British Gas, saving us several thousand pounds per annum.

*Colin Mair*  
*Treasurer*

## **MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS**

September is the start of our financial year, which means the magazine subscriptions for paper copies are now due. The subscription remains at £8 for magazines hand delivered or left in church with your name on, £15 for postal. There is no charge if you only receive your magazine electronically. You can pay direct into the church bank account (*details on page 2*), or give cash or a cheque payable to Holy Cross to the Treasurer. Either way, be sure to give your name and state that it is a magazine subscription.

Thank you to everyone who pays up promptly, and to the faithful band of distributors.

With Stephen's departure, emailing the magazine has been added to the other distribution duties. I have noticed that the email list which Stephen gave me includes people who receive a paper magazine. If you want to continue getting your magazine in both formats, that's fine. If you want to come off one list or the other, please let me know (*contact details on page 2*).

*Margaret Deas*

## **SECRETARY WANTED FOR HOLY CROSS CHURCH VESTRY**

My husband, Ian, has been telling me for years that being a secretary had the potential of giving access to a position of power. As he went on to explain, Stalin, by volunteering to be party secretary, had access to all important contact details of partisans and activists... rallying them to the cause with the dire consequences we know about!

Well, I must say that, thankfully, I haven't used my experience to that end, and far be it from me to compare Holy Cross with the communist party!

On a more serious vein, after the incredibly sad loss of Una Woof in early 2018, I volunteered to become Secretary having sat on the Vestry for several years already, keen to be part of the 'running' of the church I had belonged to since 1972, taking part in discussions and decision-making.

It's a choice I am glad I made, as I have found the meetings interesting and certainly far from boring, with all the issues we have had to face and find solutions to, since 2018. To name but a few: stonework repairs, boiler replacement, selecting a new Rector, Covid, ongoing upgrading of the hall, loss of the Reindeer group with resulting shortfall in revenue...

The team which makes up the Vestry consists of solid, efficient, reliable people who tackle snags head on and seldom differ in their views, offering a united voice to resolve arising matters. In fact, the efficiency has been such that we have been in a position to reduce the frequency of the meetings.

The task is very standard for a secretary, and consists of providing and distributing agendas and minutes of meetings, gathering reports for them and of course the AGM, which leads to the election of new Vestry members etc. Forwarding communications from the Diocesan office is also an integral part of the duties, as is filling in the annual forms. The use of electronic communication is saving on photocopying, paper, postage and providing a much quicker response time to most exchanges.

I would like to encourage anyone sufficiently curious to come forward and would be delighted to show the paperwork and electronic files I have, in the hope that an enthusiastic replacement is found sooner rather than later as I am meant to retire at this year's AGM in November.

Please note: budding Stalins need not apply!

**Nicole Elvin**  
*Holy Cross Secretary*

## **OUR NEW SANCTUARY LAMP**

### **Remembering departed loved ones**

The flame in our sanctuary lamp burns continually in our church as a sign of prayer and presence. You can sponsor the lamp for a month in memory of a loved one, at a suggested minimum donation of £15, which covers the cost of the candles. There are vacancies for next year. If you would like to fill one, please send the name to be remembered to Ross our Curate.

In September the lamp will burn in memory of Gina Halliday.

## **PSALM 23**

### **THE SEAFARER'S VERSION**

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift.  
He lighteth me across dark water.  
He steereth me in the deep channels. He keepeth my log.  
He guideth me by the star of holiness for His name's sake.  
Yea, even amid the thunders and tempests of life,  
I dread no longer; for Thou art with me,  
Thy love and Thy care, they shelter me.  
Thou preparest a harbour before me in the homeland of Eternity.  
Thou anointest the waves with oil – my ship rides calmly.  
Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me on the voyage I take,  
And I will rest in the port of my God forever.



Dear God, I'm sailing on thy wide, wide sea:  
please guard my little ship for me.



## ST SALVADOR'S FOOD BANK

Thanks to all who donate food or money to the St Salvador's Food Initiative.

Donations can be placed in the big black box in church. Items particularly needed include rice, cooking oil, tins of tuna, packets of sweet biscuits and those cheap instant noodle packs. In fact, basic non-perishable foods, and also hygiene items. If in doubt, consult Ross, who is regularly involved. Thank you!

Harvest is at the beginning of October – a good time to give a bit extra to the Food Initiative.

The food bank proper runs on Wednesdays from 12 to 1 p.m. followed until 2 p.m. by a drop-in space with tea and coffee. This is to meet the needs of the visitors, some of whom just want to pick up food while others enjoy a blether as well.



## WORSHIP

(Any variations are noted in the Kalendar)

**Sunday**                    **9.00 a.m. Eucharist (traditional language)**  
**10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist**

**Wednesday**            **9.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Contemplative Prayer**  
We meet in the presence of God and sit in silence, 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. **NOTE CHANGE OF TIME** for an experimental period.

**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 Ross.

**First Friday in the month**

**2 p.m. Healing Eucharist with anointing**

## KALENDAR and READINGS SEPTEMBER 2024

**SUNDAY 1st September – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** (Start of Creationtide) – Eucharist 9 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

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

Monday 2nd September – Martyrs of New Guinea

Tuesday 3rd September – Gregory the Great, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 604

**Wednesday 4th September – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: I Corinthians 3.1-9                      Psalm 62                      Luke 4.38-44

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

**Friday 6th September – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.**

**Sunday 8th September – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 35.4-7a                                      Psalm 146.5-10  
                  James 2.1-10,14-17                                      Mark 7.24-37

Monday 9th September – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*trans from 8th*)

**Wednesday 11th September – Finnan of Moville, Abbot, 579 – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. and Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: I Corinthians 7.25-31                      Psalm 45.11-18                      Luke 6.20-26

**Thursday 12th September – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 13th September – Cyprian of Carthage, Bishop and Martyr

**Sunday 15th September – HOLY CROSS DAY (Patronal Feast) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Numbers 21.4b-9                                      Psalm 98.1-5  
                  I Corinthians 1.18-24                                      John 3.13-17

Monday 16th September – Ninian of Whithorn, Bishop, c430

Tuesday 17th September – Hildegard of Bingen, Abbess, 1179

**Wednesday 18th September – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: I Corinthians 12.31-13.13                      Psalm 33.1-12,22                      Luke 7.31-35

**Thursday 19th September – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 20th September – John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop and Martyr 1871

Saturday 21st September – St MATTHEW, APOSTLE and EVANGELIST

**Sunday 22nd September – EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Wisdom 1.16-2.1,12-22 Psalm 54  
James 3.13-4.3,7-8a Mark 9.30-37

Monday 23rd September – Adamnan of Iona, Abbot, 704

Tuesday 24th September – Our Lady of Walsingham

**Wednesday 25th September – Finnbar of Caithness, Bishop, c 610 – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Proverbs 30.5-9 Psalm 119.105-112 Luke 9.1-6

**Thursday 26th September – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

**Friday 27th September – Vincent de Paul, Priest, 1660**

**Sunday 29th September – St MICHAEL and ALL ANGELS- Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Genesis 28.10-17 Psalm 103.19-22  
Revelation 12.7-12 John 1.47-51

Monday 30th September – Jerome, Priest and Teacher of the Faith, 420

Tuesday 1st October – Gregory the Enlightener, Bishop, 'Apostle of Armenia', c 32

**Wednesday 2nd October – Holy Guardian Angels Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. and Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Job 9.1-16 Psalm 88.10.15 Luke 9.57-62

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

**Friday 5th October – Francis of Assisi, Deacon and Friar, 1226 (End of Creationtide) - Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.**

**Sunday 6th October – TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (HARVEST FESTIVAL) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Joel 2.21-27 Psalm 126  
1 Timothy 2.1-7 Matthew 6.25-33

