

Church of the Holy Cross

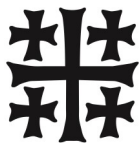
DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025



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
Day off: Monday

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

Interim Pastor The Revd Canon Andrew Bain
Tel: 07929 047896 Email: andrewbain99@hotmail.com

Rector's Warden Mr Alan Kirkpatrick

People's Warden Mrs Sally Mair

Vestry Secretary Mrs Nicole Elvin (to January 2025)
Beverley Naidoo (from January 2025)

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

Magazine Editor Mrs Margaret Deas
margaretandeas@btinternet.com

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

Website holycrossedinburgh.org

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2024



THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER 7 p.m.

CAROLS IN YE OLDE INN, Davidson's Mains. Come and be part of the ad hoc choir from Davidson's Mains Parish Church, Holy Cross and St Margaret's (RC), or just sit in the bar and join in.

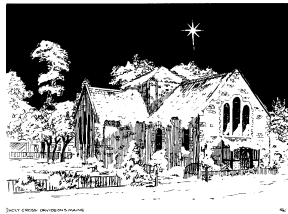
TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

3 p.m. CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – a traditional service with carols, candles, oranges and the Christmas story – for all the family.

11.30 p.m. MIDNIGHT MASS – Sung Eucharist with carols.

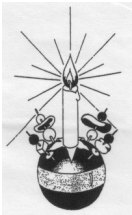
WEDNESDAY 25th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30 a.m. SUNG EUCHARIST with carols



VOLUNTEERS

There is a list on the church noticeboard of volunteers needed for services not on the regular Sunday duty rota. Please sign up to read, serve, lead intercessions or to hand out pew sheets etc., help people find seats and generally make newcomers feel welcome at the midnight and Christmas morning services. For the Christingle service we need welcomers at both doors to hand out service sheets, find seats, advise on buggy parking and deal with anything else that crops up.



For the Christingle service we also need:

Helpers beforehand to make the Christingles (day and time to be announced) and get the church ready

Help afterwards to tidy the church before the Indian congregation arrive for their Christmas service.

Offers to Sally.

A CHRISTMAS HYMN



I come from hevin heich to tell
the best nowells that e'er befell.
To you thir tythings trew I bring
and I will of them say and sing.
This day to you is born ane Child
of Marie meik and Virgin mild.
That blissit bairn bening and kind,
sall you rejoyce baith hart and mind.

Lat us rejoyis and be blyth
and with the Hyrdis go full swith
and see what Godis grace hes done
throu Christ to bring us to his throne.
My saull and life stand up and see
wha lysis in ane cribbe of tree.
What Babe is that, sa gude and fair?
It is Christ, Godis Son and Air.

The silk and sandell thee to eis
ar hay and sempell sweiling clais
wharin thou gloris greitest King
as thou in hev'n war in thy ring.
And war the warld ten times sa wide
cled ouer with gold and stanes of pride
unworthie yit it were to thee
under they feet ane stule to be.

O my deir hart, yung Jesus sweit
prepair thy creddill in my spreit!
and I sall rock thee in my hart
and never mair frae thee depart.
Bot I sall praise thee evermoir
with sangis sweit unto thy gloir.
The kneis of my hart sall I bow
and sing that rycht Balulalow.



Martin Luther (1483–1546) translated John or Robert Wedderburn (fl. 1540) and published in The Gude and Godlie Ballatis (1578)

We are after all the Scottish Episcopal Church, but if you find 16th century Scots a bit much there is a modernised version in *Church Hymnary* 4th Ed.!

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

The church remains unadorned during Advent.

Christmas Flowers

Sarah and her team would welcome donations in advance to the cost of flowers. Help with decorating also welcome – day and time to be arranged. Contact Sarah on sarahmillee@aol.com or 237 5147.



Flower Rota 2025 will be on the noticeboard soon. Please sign up for any Sundays when you would like to be responsible for the flowers. If you would like to donate the flowers but not arrange them yourself, speak to Sarah.

VACANCY UPDATE

How are we doing?

Just a quick update as things are chugging along at a steady pace. The Vestry as a whole and in smaller groups has met to discuss and draw up the Parish and Rector profiles. We have paid attention to all comments received whether written, emailed or otherwise conveyed to us. Some have been included, others have been noted and will be taken on board as appropriate, e.g. when assessing applications or during the interview process. We hope to have the final profiles completed and submitted to the Bishop for his approval and the addition of his contribution before Christmas.

Once the profiles are complete we will draw up an advert which will hopefully be placed mid January with a closing date for applications of four to six weeks later – we have been advised not to place this over the Christmas period as many may miss it. The Bishop receives all of the applications and passes suitable ones to us for consideration and short listing after the closing date. Interviews will then be arranged, hopefully for March.

Things have also moved on with the Rectory. The painter has been doing some preliminary work, and work on the exterior of the kitchen is in hand. The Diocesan Buildings committee visited the Rectory this week and I am waiting for their report on what other work will be needed. We will certainly have to do some work on the kitchen to bring it up to standard and so we are getting a quote for this. In addition, the hedges have been cut and work will be done over the winter to improve the garden.

We're getting there! Thank you for all your support.

Sally, People's Warden

HOLY CROSS HAS A NEW SECRETARY!

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that a volunteer has come forward to take over from me as I retire from the role.

The answer to our prayers has materialised and Beverley Naidoo, a relatively new member of our congregation, will be taking over in January when she returns from visiting members of her family abroad.

Beverley first visited Holy Cross earlier this year in August and told me that she found our church friendly and welcoming, which confirms what a number of people have said.

Beverley's background is in administration, which will provide our Vestry with valuable experience.

I shall ask Beverley to write a few paragraphs about herself in the February magazine once she feels a little more established.

Meantime, we hope to sit together at the first Vestry meeting of 2025.

I have no doubt that you will all welcome her and wish her well in the duties she is about to undertake.

Thank you for coming forward, Beverley!

Nicole Elvin

Thanks also to Nicole for her years of service, after being thrown in at the deep end when her predecessor, Una, died in office.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On Sunday 16th November the Annual Report and Accounts were presented to the congregation at the AGM and I'm pleased to report that they show that our financial position is sound. Our total reserves (the sum of our bank balance plus the value of our investments) increased from £105,366 to £116,113. We have a Vestry policy that we should hold reserves of at least £105,000, to cover one year's annual turnover of £75,000 plus a contingency fund of £30,000, and we are comfortably ahead of that.

The main reason for the improvement is an increase in the value of our investments, up £9,198 over the year after a fall of £1,077 in 2022/23. As is often said, the value of your investments can go down as well as up.

Congregational giving remained strong. Although it was less than in 2022/23,

that was because we received an exceptional donation that year, and it was 18% higher than in 2021/22. Hall rentals were dramatically lower than in the previous year, following the closure of our two main tenants, Oscar After School Club and the Reindeer Playgroup, but I am pleased to report that we have now recruited a replacement After School Club, Daddy Day Care, who started operating in August 2024.

Our income was also boosted by grants of £11,012 received during the year, mainly covering work that had been carried out and paid for in the previous year. Our expenditure on repairs and maintenance was down from £28,101 to £4,569, reflecting the fact that we had no major maintenance projects for the first time in many years.

I also presented our budget for 2024/25, forecasting a healthy surplus of £20,099 for the year. This is largely due to the savings on stipend, pensions contributions for the Rector following Revd Dr Stephen's departure to take up his new post at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth. The Treasurer is perhaps alone in welcoming a vacancy which results in a saving of over £3,000 per month as long as it lasts. We will, however, have increased maintenance costs for refurbishment of the Rectory. We also anticipate increased rental income now that the Hall is returning to full occupancy.

It is important that we recognise that we are self-sufficient as a congregation. We raise sufficient income from congregational giving, Gift Aid and hall rental income to cover the cost of employing a full-time Rector and maintaining and heating our premises without relying on financial support from the Diocese and Province. This is something we should be proud of and is a testament to the generosity and work of a huge number of members of the congregation.

We face a period of waiting until we can appoint a new Rector but are fortunate to have Revd Dr Ross Jesmont as our Curate (shared with St Salvador's) and Revd Canon Andrew Bain as our Interim Pastor to help us along the way during the vacancy.

A copy of our budget for 2024/25 is on page 8 and I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Please send any questions to treasurer.hcel@gmail.com

Colin Mair
Treasurer
November 2024

ANNUAL MEETING 2024 APPOINTMENTS and ELECTIONS

Secretary: Nicole Elvin (to Jan. 2025) Beverley Naidoo (from Jan. 2025)
 Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary: Colin Mair
 Independent Examiner: WK Ramage
 Protection of Vulnerable Groups Coordinator: Alan Kirkpatrick
 Lay Representative: Alan Kirkpatrick Alternate Lay Rep.: Sally Mair
 Rector's Warden: Alan Kirkpatrick People's Warden: Sally Mair
 Vestry members: Nicole Elvin (from Jan.) Denise Humphries

BUDGET 2024/25

	Actual 2023/24	Budget 2024/25
Income		
Congregational Giving	£41,558	£42,597
Gift Aid Tax Recoveries	£10,992	£10,649
Hall Rents	£12,637	£20,000
Magazines	£282	£289
Fund Raising	£704	£722
Rector's Leaving Collection	£1,360	£0
Investment Income	£2,922	£2,995
Charitable Collections	£198	£203
Grants and VAT Recovery	£11,012	-£1,800
Total	£81,655	£75,655
Expenditure		
Stipend, Pension etc.	-£45,851	-£10,464
Travel	-£1,054	-£1,080
Insurance	-£4,279	-£4,602
Council Tax	-£3,698	-£1,000
Repairs and Maintenance	-£4,569	-£18,000
Cleaning	-£1,821	-£3,000
Heat and Light	-£8,790	-£8,000
Altar and Music	-£1,701	-£1,744
Administration Expenses	-£1,715	-£1,758
Rector's Leaving Gift	-£1,235	-£125
Quota	-£4,450	-£4,806
Charitable Outgoing	-£438	-£449
Pastoral Expenses	-£515	-£528
Total	-£80,116	-£55,556
Surplus/Deficit	£1,549	£20,099

ST SALVADOR'S COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE

St Salvador's Community Food Initiative is a non-referral food pantry that operates every Wednesday between midday and 1.30 p.m. When someone uses our service, they are greeted at the door and given a basics bag. This contains milk, tea, biscuits and toilet roll. They then have the option of selecting additional items from the fresh produce and dried goods that we have in stock.



We also operate a café space, where people are invited to stay for refreshments and conversation. The people we support come from a range of backgrounds and the service we offer helps ease some of the burdens that they are experiencing.

Items that are regularly requested include: rice, cereal, tuna, tinned meats and nappies. You can also find information on how to financially support our Community Food Initiative on our website: stsalvadors.co.uk.

A big black box is near the entrance to the church awaiting your contributions. The basics are just as important at Christmas, but the odd treat would not come amiss. Just remember – if it's not in a tin, or dried in a packet, check use-by dates very carefully.

NEW YEAR

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting
Another year with thee.

Another year of leaning
Upon thy loving breast,
Of ever-deepening trustfulness,
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness for thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for thee!

F R Havergal 1836–79

FRESH START COOKERS FOR CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Not everyone enjoys a merry Christmas. For those with little or no money, replacing or purchasing a cooker can be an unaffordable luxury. Fresh Start's Cookers for Christmas Campaign helps those in need by providing cookers and other essential white goods. You can make a difference this Christmas.

For two years, Becca was living in a small room in a hostel where privacy was a luxury. The hostel was a temporary shelter, but for Becca it felt like an endless chapter of her life. The hardest part was the lack of basic amenities – a cooker, a fridge, even a place to prepare a proper meal. She relied on ready-made food, eating mostly cold meals that provided little nourishment or comfort.

Becca had found herself homeless after a series of unfortunate events. A sudden job loss, followed by the breakdown of a relationship, had left her without a home. During this time, she became pregnant with her first child and more than ever needed somewhere she could feel safe, warm and call home.

One morning, Becca received the news she had been hoping for – a flat had become available and it was hers if she wanted it. She felt a mix of relief and excitement but also anxiety and fear. Moving into her own place was a dream come true, but the flat was bare, with no cooker, fridge or basic household essentials, and with little finances how would she turn it into a home for herself and her baby?

Thankfully Becca's support worker referred her to Fresh Start and we were able to help her turn her empty property into a home. Within the first week of her tenancy we delivered and fitted a cooker and a fridge-freezer along with a whole van load of essential Starter Pack items. Becca made a simple dinner – just pasta with a homemade sauce – but it tasted like a feast. With Fresh Start's help, Becca was able to move beyond mere survival.

It's easy to donate:

Online Visit www.freshstartweb.org.uk and donate through JustGiving

Cheque Send a cheque payable to Fresh Start (Scotland) to The Treasurer, Fresh Start (Scotland), 22–24 Ferry Road Drive, Edinburgh, EH4 4BR

Bank Transfer Simply transfer your donation to The Bank of Scotland, Sort Code 80-11-05, Account Number 00191316 for the credit of Fresh Start (Scotland)

Every donation helps – Thank you!

CLOSURE OF THE CORNERSTONE BOOKSHOP

The staff of the Cornerstone Bookshop, under St John's Princes Street, write:
Dear customers and friends,

After over 30 years of trading, it is with great sadness that we have to announce the time has come to close the Cornerstone Bookshop.

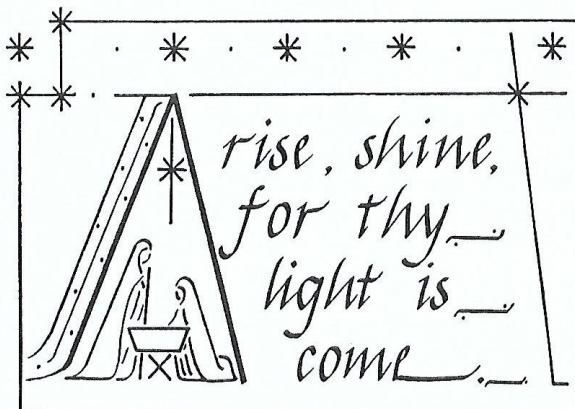
Trading has been challenging for some years, particularly since the pandemic and cost of living crisis, and while our sales have been rising slowly, they are showing no sign of returning to sustainable levels. Unfortunately, we have been operating at a loss since Covid and the charity's reserves are running out. That means, if we continue, we will no longer be able to meet our financial commitments. We have therefore decided to start taking steps to wind up the charity and Cornerstone Bookshop will cease trading by the end of the year.

We are extremely grateful for all the support given to us by St John's from the shop's inception and are delighted to hear they are planning on opening a smaller bookshop within the church at some point next year.

But most of all, we would like to thank all of you, our customers, for your loyalty over the years. We have loved the conversations and good cheer and will miss you all.

In these final weeks, we would really appreciate your continued support which will help us to ensure we continue to fulfil all our financial obligations. We very much look forward to welcoming you.

The Cornerstone team



SANCTUARY LAMP Remembering departed loved ones

The flame in our sanctuary lamp burns continually 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 to cover the cost of the candles.

In December the lamp burns in memory of Avril Scammell, Margaret Ross and Agnes Cooper. To fill a vacancy in 2025, please give the name to be remembered to Ross.

WORSHIP

(Any variations are noted in the Kalendar)

Sunday 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

**First and Third Sunday in the month
9.00 a.m. Eucharist (traditional language)**

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.

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**

Christmas Services are detailed on page 3

KALENDAR and READINGS DECEMBER 2024 and JANUARY 2025

**Sunday 1st December – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Eucharist
9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Jeremiah 33.14-16 Psalm 25.1-9
 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13 Luke 21.25-36

Monday 2nd December – Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637

Tuesday 3rd December – Francis Xavier, Priest and Missionary, 1552

Wednesday 4th December – Clement of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, c 214 – **Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 25.6-9 Psalm 23 Matthew 15.29-39

Thursday 5th December – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 6th December – Nicholas of Myra, Bishop, 4th Century – **Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.**

Saturday 7th December – Ambrose of Milan, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 397

Sunday 8th December – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Baruch 5.1-9 Benedictus (Luke 1 68-79)
Philippians 1.3-11 Luke 3.1-6

Monday 9th December – The Conception of Mary, Mother of God (trans. from 8th December)

Tuesday 10th December – Thomas Merton, monk, 1968

Wednesday 11th December – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 40.25-31 Psalm 103.1-10 Matthew 11.28-30

Thursday 12th December – Finnian of Clonard, Abbot, c 550 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 13th December – Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304

Saturday 14th December – John of the Cross, Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1591

Sunday 15th December – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Zephaniah 3.14-20 Isaiah 12.2-6
Philippians 4.4-7 Luke 3.7-18

Wednesday 18th December – Ember Day – **Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Jeremiah 23.5-8 Psalm 72.11-19 Matthew 1.18-25

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

Sunday 22nd December – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Micah 5.2-5a Psalm 80.1-7
Hebrews 10.5-10 Luke 1.39-45

**Tuesday 24th December – CHRISTMAS EVE – Christingle Service
3 p.m. Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm 98
Hebrews 1.1-12 John 1.1-14

**Wednesday 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY – Eucharist
10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 9.2-7 Psalm 98
Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-20

Thursday 26th December – St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr – no services

Friday 27th December – St John, Apostle and Evangelist

Saturday 28th December – The Holy Innocents

**Sunday 29th December – THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS –
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: I Samuel 2.18-20,26 Psalm 148.7-14
Colossians 3.12-17 Luke 2.41-52

Wednesday 1st January – The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus – no services

Thursday 2nd January – Seraphim of Sarov, 1833 – no Zoom Evening Prayer

Friday 3rd January – 2 p.m. Healing Eucharist

**Sunday 5th January – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – Eucharist
9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6 Psalm 72.1-7,10,12-14
Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12

Monday 6th January – The Epiphany of the Lord (trans. to Sunday 5th)

**Wednesday 8th January – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m.
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: I John 4.11-19 Psalm 72.1-2,10-13 Mark 6.45-52

Thursday 9th January – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 10th January – William Laud, Bishop, 1645

Saturday 11th January – David, King of Scots, 1153

**Sunday 12th January – First Sunday after Epiphany THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 43.1-7 Psalm 29
Acts 8.14-17 Luke 3.15-17,21-22

Monday 13th January – Kentigern or Mungo, Bishop, c 603

Tuesday 14th January – Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, c367

**Wednesday 15th January – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m.
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Hebrews 2.14-18 Psalm 105.1-15 Mark 1.29-39

Thursday 16th January – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 17th January – Anthony of Egypt, Abbot, 356

Saturday 18th January – The Confession of Peter

**Sunday 19th January – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY –
Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 62.1-5 Psalm 36.5-10
I Corinthians 12.1-11 John 2.1-11

Tuesday 21st January - Agnes, Martyr, c304

**Wednesday 22nd January – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m.
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Hebrews 7.1-3,15-17 Psalm 110 Mark 3.1-6

Thursday 23rd January – Evening Prayer on Zoom 5 p.m.

Friday 24th January – Francis de Sales, Bishop, 1622

**Sunday 26th January – THE CONVERSION OF PAUL, APOSTLE
(trans. from Saturday 25th) – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Acts 26.9-23 Psalm 67
Galatians 1.11-24 Matthew 10.16-22

Monday 27th January – John Chrysostom, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 407

Tuesday 28th January – Thomas Aquinas, Teacher of the Faith, 1274

**Wednesday 29th January – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m.
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Hebrews 10.11-18 Psalm 110.1-4 Mark 4.1-20

**Thursday 30th January – Charles I, King, 1649 – Evening Prayer on
Zoom 5 p.m.**

Friday 31st January – Charles Mackenzie of Central Africa, Bishop, Missionary,
Martyr, 1862

**Sunday 2nd February – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD –
Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Malachi 3.1-4 Psalm 84
Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40

