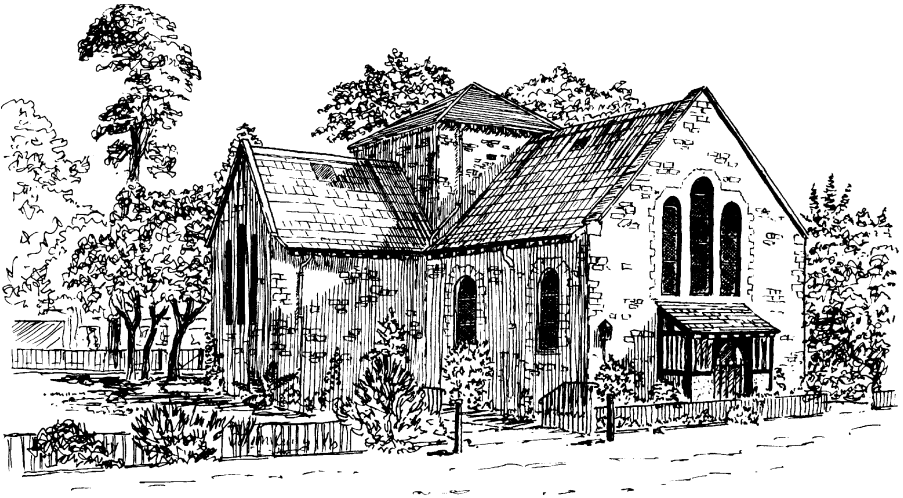


# Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

OCTOBER 2025



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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

**Website** [holycrossedinburgh.org](http://holycrossedinburgh.org)

**Facebook** [@HolyCrossEdinburgh](https://www.facebook.com/HolyCrossEdinburgh)

**YouTube** [Holy Cross Church Edinburgh](https://www.youtube.com/HolyCrossChurchEdinburgh) **Instagram** [@holycrossedinburgh](https://www.instagram.com/holycrossedinburgh)

**Bank account** Royal Bank of Scotland      Name: Church of the Holy Cross  
Sort code 83-18-47                      Account number 00170278

*Registered Charity No SC015766*

## FROM THE RECTOR

What a joy it is to write to you for the first time in our church magazine, as I begin my life and ministry with you as Rector of Holy Cross. Simon and I want to say a heartfelt thank you for the warmth of your welcome to us (and our children), and for all that has been done to make our arrival among you so very good for us.

These are also the early days of my life together with you, the community of Holy Cross Church and the body of Christ. As Paul writes in I Corinthians 12, we are all members of one body – the body of Christ – and each one of us has a unique and valuable role to play. Every member matters. Every gift is needed.

Already it has been wonderful to begin discovering some of the unique gifts flourishing and being lived out in many of you. One of the great blessings of being church, and of us all having different gifts, is that we support and complement one another. None of us is called to do everything, but each of us is a vital part of the whole.

As I begin to discern and discover who I am as Rector of Holy Cross, I'd love to invite you to reflect on your place within this community too. Perhaps you already know and share your gifts here – thanks be to God! Or maybe you feel unsure of what your gifts may be, or are wondering how you might become more involved.

I believe with all my heart that every person connected with the Holy Cross community has unique God-given gifts, part of what makes us who we are as individuals and who we are in the wholeness and flourishing of this church and its place in Davidson's Mains, in Edinburgh, in Scotland, and beyond.

I am full of hope for all that God may do within us, among us and through us, as we continue to grow into the body of Christ that God desires us to be.

Amen

*Janet Spence*

## RECTOR'S PHONE NUMBER - CORRECTION

Janet fortunately spotted the Editor's typing error last month in time to correct the website and notify email readers of the mistake. My apologies to all who depend on a paper copy. I hope no one was seriously inconvenienced. The number in this magazine (07471 248114) is correct.

*Margaret*

## **JANET'S INSTITUTION**

The Revd Janet Spence was Instituted as Rector of Holy Cross in a joyous service on 1st September. The church was full, with Holy Cross members, Janet's family and friends, people from St Mary's Cathedral where she had been Chaplain, and from other churches, and a whole transept of clergy from the diocese and neighbouring local churches.

The service was conducted by the Primus, the Most Revd Mark Strange, who has responsibility for Edinburgh diocese until Bishop John's replacement is elected. Bishop Mark is, appropriately, Bishop of Janet's home diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness, and husband of a former teaching colleague in Inverness.

Drinks and nibbles in the hall afterwards were much enjoyed, with nobody apparently in any hurry to leave.

It was a lovely evening, the result of a lot of work by a lot of people - the Vestry of course, the flower arranging team who decorated the church so beautifully, the Indian congregation who carried the extra chairs over from the hall, and no doubt others too. Thank you to everyone.

And welcome, Janet!

## **ROSS (BACK) TO ST SALVADOR'S** **Collation as Priest-in-Charge** **Monday 6th October** **7 p.m.** **St Salvador's Church** **Saughton Mains Street**



When Ross Jesmont was ordained deacon he became Curate at St Salvador's, and was particularly involved with its Food Initiative. When Stephen Holmes became Rector of St Salvador's as well as Holy Cross, Ross became our Curate too, and proved a tower of strength during the vacancy.

Now, two years after his ordination to the priesthood, Ross has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of St Salvador's. A new departure in familiar surroundings.

We wish him (and Hayley and the children) well.

If you are able to get to the service, details are above.



## HARVEST FESTIVAL SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER

As usual, we shall be collecting practical food and household items for St Salvador's Community Food Initiative (see below).

There is always a box near the church entrance for your donations - the need is ongoing, not just at harvest. Harvest however gives us a reminder to be extra generous. Just make sure that use-by dates, where applicable, are well in the future.

*Creator God,  
From the tree of the garden of Eden,  
To the tree in the city of Revelation,  
We thank you for your vision of creation healed.  
Help us to be your agents of restoration,  
Tending to the beauty of the Earth,  
And enabling your healing of the nations.*

*A prayer from Christian Aid*

### 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. It is open to anyone in the local area who is experiencing financial difficulties.

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 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. Other tinned or dry food, personal hygiene items and cleaning materials are also welcome. You can also find information on how to financially support our Community Food Initiative on our website: [stsalvadors.co.uk](http://stsalvadors.co.uk)

*A big plastic box is near the entrance to the church awaiting your contributions.*

## FROM THE REGISTERS

**Marriage** William Simpson and Jennifer Imrie on 19th September

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to Sarah and Yvonne for the beautiful flower arrangements for Janet's Institution and her first Sunday with us.

28th September	Jenny Harrison
5th October	Ron Gillies
12th October	Denise Humphries - HARVEST
19th October	Neville Long
26th October	Nicole Elvin



**Flower Rota 2025** is on the noticeboard. Please sign up for any Sundays when you would like to be responsible for the flowers. There are still quite a few gaps. A simple vase of flowers is fine if you don't have artistic skills, and there is a good selection of containers in the vestry cupboard. Why not give it a try?

If you would like to donate the flowers but cannot arrange them yourself, speak to Sarah.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2024-25 financial year is finished and the accounts are being prepared for the Annual Meeting in November.

At this point there is nothing much to report, except to remind you about magazine subscriptions for paper copies.

*Colin Mair, Treasurer*

## SANCTUARY LAMP Remembering departed loved ones

Our sanctuary lamp burns continually before the aumbry containing the reserved sacrament as a sign of prayer and presence. You can sponsor the light for a month in memory of a loved one, at a suggested donation of £15 to cover the cost of candles. Please write the name to be remembered on the list on the noticeboard in church, and consult Colin about payment.

In September the lamp burned in memory of Mandy Padgett and Lin Fazio. In October we remember Kay Dowell and Neil Harrison.



## RELAXED MUSICAL PLAY

Interactive concerts for the under-fives

2-3 p.m. Holy Cross Church

Sunday 5th October

Sunday 2nd November

Free but donations welcome.



Enjoy an hour of relaxed musical play with your little ones. A gentle and fun mix of songs, tunes, stories and games specially designed for the under-fives. Baby feeding friendly.

Music by folk duo Mairi McGillivray (voice and fiddle) and Katie Allen (guitar and fiddle).



Inspiring musicians - changing lives

Supported by the J S Innes Charitable Trust

To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise  
In hymns of adoration;  
To thee bring sacrifice of praise  
With shouts of exultation.  
Bright robes of gold the fields adorn,  
The hills with joy are ringing,  
The valleys stand so thick with corn  
That even they are singing.

We bear the burden of the day,  
And often toil seems weary;  
But labour ends with sunset ray,  
And rest is for the weary;  
May we, the angel-reaping o'er,  
Stand at the last accepted,  
Christ's golden sheaves for evermore  
To garners bright elected.

*W. Chatterton Dix*



**MENTAL HEALTH, FAITH AND COMMUNITY:  
Rethinking How the Church Cares**

**Saturday 11th October**

**2-4 p.m.**

**Talk and discussion with Professor John Swinton  
St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral**

Professor Swinton, who has particular expertise in spirituality and health, will explore how Christian faith shapes our thinking about mental health and how the Church can become a community of true belonging and healing.

Free, ticketed. Please book via the Cathedral website [www.cathedral.net](http://www.cathedral.net)

**FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL AGM**

**Sunday 26th October**

**2.30 p.m.**

**in the Cathedral Chapter House**

The AGM is an opportunity to hear more about the work of the Friends of the Cathedral and raise any questions that you have. There will be hot drinks in the Chapter House before the meeting. Members are encouraged to stay for Choral Evensong after the meeting.

Holy Cross is a member of the Friends.



**ALL SOULS REQUIEM**

**Monday 3rd November**

**Time to be confirmed (7 or 7.30 p.m.)**

Details will follow in the Sunday sheets.

There will as usual be a box (and pen and paper) for the names of the departed you wish to have remembered.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace, and rise again in glory.

## REGULAR WORSHIP

The pattern in the Kalendar below, with known variations noted, may change as our new Rector settles in. Watch the Sunday pew sheets and/or website for details.

**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**

**First Friday in the month**

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

## KALENDAR and READINGS

### October 2025

**Wednesday 1st October** – Gregory the Enlightener, Bishop, Apostle of Armenia, c 332 – **Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m.**  
**-- Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Nehemiah 2.1-8 Psalm 137.1-6 Luke 9.57-62

**Friday 3rd October – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.**

Saturday 4th October – Francis of Assisi, Deacon and Friar, 1226

**Sunday 5th October - SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Habakkuk 1.1-4;2.1-4 Psalm 37.1-10  
2 Timothy 1.1-14 Luke 17.5-10

**Wednesday 8th October** - Alexander Penrose Forbes, Bishop, 1875 - **Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. -- Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Jonah 4.1-11 Psalm 86.1-10 Luke 11.1-4

Saturday 11th October - Kenneth, Abbot, 600

**Sunday 12th October – HARVEST FESTIVAL - Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Deuteronomy 26.1-11 Psalm 100  
Philippians 4.4-9 John 6.25-35

**Wednesday 15th October** - Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith - **Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. -- Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Romans 2.1-11 Psalm 62.1-9 Luke 11.42-46

Friday 17th October - Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr, c115

Saturday 18th October - St Luke, Evangelist

**Sunday 19th October - NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Genesis 32.22-31 Psalm 121  
2 Timothy 3.14-4.5 Luke 18.1-8

**Wednesday 22nd October - Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. -- Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Romans 6.12-18 Psalm 124 Luke 12.39-48

Thursday 23rd October - St James of Jerusalem, Martyr, c62

**Sunday 26th October - TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Sirach 35.12-17 Psalm 84.1-6  
2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18 Luke 18.-14

Tuesday 28th October - SS Simon and Jude, Apostles

**Wednesday 29th October** - James Hannington, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs, 1885 - **Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. -- Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Romans 8.26-30 Psalm 13 Luke 13.22-30

**Sunday 2nd November -- ALL SAINTS** (transferred from 1st November) -- **Eucharist 9.a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149  
Ephesians 1.11-23 Luke 6.20-31

**Monday 3rd November -- ALL SOULS REQUIEM -- evening (time to be confirmed)**

