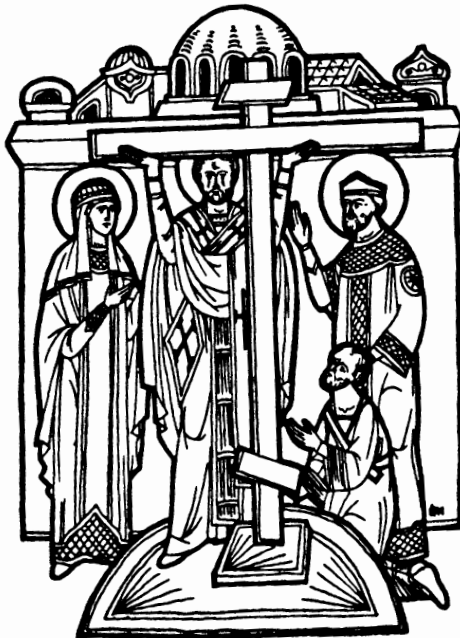


# Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

SEPTEMBER 2025



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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## **ALMOST THERE! LOOKING BACK – AND FORWARD**

Dear friends, we are almost there! At the time of writing there are just two weeks to go until we start our new chapter in the life of Holy Cross, with a new Rector in post. Janet's first service as our new Rector will be at 10.30 a.m. on 7th September.

What a whirlwind this last year has been. We are deeply indebted to Ross for his hard work keeping us on the right path with regular services and ensuring the smooth running of the church in general, which meant that the transition went so well. We so much enjoyed getting to know him better and we all wish him well in his new role as Rector at St Salvador's.



It was lovely to have Hayley and Finan join us at Ross's farewell lunch in July. Ross was delighted with the magnificent cake (as were all those who saw it) which Yvonne Boughton had decorated for him. (And Finan apparently enjoyed eating the icing version of himself!)



Since then, Ross and Hayley have become the proud parents of Tabitha (5lb 10oz) and Ossian (5lb 8oz) who arrived safely in early August. Ross says that everyone is doing well and they want to express their gratitude for all your love and support. Congratulations to all and we hope to be able to meet the babies at some point.

We also owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Revd Canon Andrew Bain who has accompanied us, particularly the Vestry, through this period of vacancy. His gentle guidance and advice have been very much appreciated. We are grateful to him, too, for all the services he has taken for us. You may remember that last time we had a period of vacancy we had to call on many different priests to lead services. This time Andrew and Ross between them have led most of them. We do, of course, also thank all those others who came and celebrated for us on those occasions when Andrew and Ross were unavailable.

In mid-August, we were very pleased to have Alison Cozens (née Fuller) take our service. Alison was our curate in the late 1980s and early 1990s when Douglas was our Rector. When Alison left us to join St Columba's by the Castle, she did so as a Deacon, as at that time the Scottish Episcopal Church was not yet ordaining women as priests. Her visit this August was therefore the first time she had celebrated the Eucharist at Holy Cross. We were

delighted to have Douglas join us too on that date.

On behalf of the Vestry, thank you to everyone for all that you have done to keep Holy Cross going through the period of change over the last year. What could have been an unsettled time has been remarkably calm. Holy Cross has maintained its warm and welcoming atmosphere and our congregation has benefited from several new people who have joined us on a regular basis.

Special thanks are due to Nicole Elvin. Nicole served for many years as Vestry Secretary and when Beverley took over last year, she agreed to remain on the Vestry during our vacancy period. Now that we have our new Rector, Nicole has stepped down. We are extremely grateful for the many years Nicole was Secretary. She was knowledgeable, always efficient and nothing was ever too much trouble. The Vestry would like to thank her wholeheartedly for all she has done to support it and the church over the years.

I too want to express my personal thanks to all those who said 'yes' when I needed help, and to everyone who helped us to get to this point – a true answer to prayer.

We are all looking forwards now, to Janet's arrival and to getting to know her and her family better as she leads us on our journey together as part of the family of God.

*Sally*

*And thank you to Sally, who has put in an enormous amount of work.*

**INSTITUTION OF THE REVD JANET SPENCE  
MONDAY 1st SEPTEMBER at 7 p.m.**

We are likely to have a full church for the Institution, so sadly there may not be seats for those who have not said in advance that they are coming.

Janet's first service as our Rector will be the Eucharist on Sunday 7th September at 10.30 a.m.

**HOLY CROSS DAY – OUR PATRONAL FESTIVAL  
SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER  
SUNG EUCHARIST 10.30 a.m.**

## **A MEDITATION ON THE HOLY CROSS**

### **‘But God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ’ (Galatians 6.14)**

On 14th September we celebrate the naming of our church – Church of the Holy Cross – the centre of our faith, the sign of our redemption, implanted in our being at Baptism.

The Cross is historical fact. Jesus was tortured and died on the Cross. It represents the worst that human beings could do to him. Yet while it happened over 2000 years ago, God is not limited by time. The Cross is something that is also happening now, both within us and around us. We do not need to look far to see the sin and disorder which humankind has brought to our world, the things that pin Jesus to the Cross today. Addictions of every kind afflict our world and Christians are not immune. Addictions to drugs, technology, alcohol, greed, pride and every variety of self-centredness, all of which are desperate attempts to substitute for our true happiness, which is our re-creation in the image of Christ. St Augustine said it well – ‘God has made us for himself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Him’.

One perspective on the Cross of Jesus is of the sin and death that pins him there, but even more important is that the Cross is also the place where Jesus triumphs over suffering and death by his Resurrection. The sign of suffering becomes a sign of triumph over everything that drags us down into the disorder of this world. It is the sign which tells us where the re-creation of this world can begin – where we can become as we are meant to be. The world does not know this but Christians know because Christ crucified and risen is embedded in our being at Baptism. When we trace the sign of the cross outwardly on our bodies, it is making visible what we know is within.

The journey from Baptism is no automatic journey. We remain human in our broken and divided world. Yet until we take the first step of true repentance our re-creation cannot begin. We cannot become what we are meant to be without the continual help which Jesus provides on the way. So on the night that he was betrayed Jesus showed us how we can continually access the fruits of his salvation on the Cross by receiving his Body and Blood – His Life – in the Eucharist. This is the only way, which Jesus himself designed – there are no substitutes – to help us on the way to become the person he designed us to be.

Thanks be to God who gave us victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 15.57)

*Neville Long*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

August is the final month of our financial year, and I am already thinking about preparing our Annual Report and Accounts for the AGM in November. As at 31st July 2025, our financial position has continued to improve while not paying stipend and pension contributions for a Rector. Our bank balance has increased by a further £2,500 during July to stand at £55,710. We also have investments valued at over £80,000. We are on target to exceed our budget forecast and end the year with a surplus of more than £15,000.

**Income** has been boosted by donations to the Hall Kitchen Refurbishment Project and the fund now stands at £6,010. Thank you to all who have given towards this. Our plans for the kitchen are still paused as we wait to hear the outcome of funding applications for the overall hall refurbishment, however the money remains, ready to be used when we need it and until then is gathering a small amount of interest.

In the meantime, our hall continues to be well used and income from hall rentals have been strong, more than £5,000 better than forecast.

**Expenditure** has exceeded forecast by around £4,500, mostly due to the costs of refurbishing the Rectory. Cleaning costs have increased, and we have also had some unexpected maintenance costs in relation to the hall: tree surgeon, curtain installer, roofer, electrician and pest control, which were relatively small amounts individually but add up to over £1,000 that we didn't expect to spend.

I am happy to be in a sound financial position as we welcome our new Rector on 1st September.

*Colin Mair, 18th August 2025*

### MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

The start of the new financial year means that magazine subscriptions are due. There is no charge for email, but if you have a paper copy delivered to your door, or awaiting you in church with your name on it, the cost remains at £8 for the year, which covers all the production costs.

If you receive your magazine by post, increases in the cost of postage mean that the total cost is now £18.

Payment to the Treasurer, please, remembering to say who you are and what you are paying for. Thank you.

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to Neville, Sarah and Yvonne for donating and/or arranging the flowers on the blank dates in August.

7th September	Margaret Deas
14th September	Denise Humphries
21st September	Ann Hughes Smith
28th September	



**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 plenty of gaps. A simple vase of flowers is fine if you don't have artistic skills, and there is a good selection of vases 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.

## 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 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](https://stsalvadors.co.uk)

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

## 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.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

**Baptisms:** Sofia Iona Duck on 6th July  
Benjamiin Lee Horn on 27th July

## BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL UPDATES

### 2025

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the Bishop's 2025 Lent Appeal for Abraham's Children in Crisis. Bishop John has received a thank you letter from Ian Mills, Head of Mission at Abraham's Children in Crisis:

Dear Bishop John,

I can't thank you enough for your kindness. Donations from the diocese reached £10,175 which will go directly to supporting the children in the most need in the Holy Land. Already, we have been able to support nine new children with their school fees and one young man who I have known since 2007. We have supported him through his school and university education and then until he qualified as a barrister. His life, like so many, has been one of abuse, violence and extreme poverty. I promised him that when we had the funds we would support him to start his career. I have, today, sent him the first instalment so that he can work, earn money and in turn support his family. The difference these donations have already, and will make is enormous. Young lives will be transformed and some hope will be given in a time when there is so much hopelessness. Thank you to you, to your clergy and to all the folk of the diocese who have joined together to make this real and positive difference. Also a great thank you to Hannah who has been so kind and lovely to work with. I would be so grateful if you are able to pass on my, the charity's and the children's great thanks to all.

With kindest regards, Ian

### 2024

The Bishop's 2024 Lent Appeal raised £13,885 for the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre. The Very Revd Frances Burberry has received a thank you letter from the General Director of the Centre, Violette Mubarak:

Dear Frances,

On behalf of our Palestinian staff, families/caregivers and children, my heartfelt thanks to you and to all in the Diocese of Edinburgh for your support for our ministry at the Jerusalem Princess Basma through the Bishop's Lent Appeal last year. We have commissioned an Armenian tile in your honour, along with others for their gifts in 2024, and this has just been mounted here in our Child Rehabilitation Centre. Our teams in Jerusalem

and in Gaza remain faithful to our vision to alleviate suffering and bring hope to Palestinian children with disabilities and their families through these very uncertain days. And so we join you in prayer for the safety of all peoples in these lands, especially in Gaza and for the wellbeing of our Princess Basma team of now eight staff at our unit in Al Ahli Arab Hospital. One of therapists there tells us: 'My motivation to continue is driven by love; love for the work, love for the city, and love for the people, standing by them and sharing their pain. Despite the challenges, my presence in the field provides a ray of hope for children and their families.'

Thank you once again for sharing this mission with us, especially in these days, as we seek to bring light and hope, and to walk alongside our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Sincerely, Violette Mubarak, General Director

### **SYCAMORE TREE CAFÉ at DMPC**

The Sycamore Tree café in Davidson's Mains Parish Church (DMPC) North Hall is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.30 to 2.30 (last lunch orders 1.30). We serve homemade soup, sandwiches and toasties, teas, coffees and cake. There are toys in the small hall for young children, where they can move around and make a noise without disturbing others.

#### **HELP NEEDED – ESPECIALLY TUESDAY AFTERNOONS**

Volunteers are needed to join our friendly café team. Could you help with serving food and drinks, welcoming customers and keeping things running smoothly? Training will be given on the job. Some volunteers work a weekly shift (morning or afternoon), others fortnightly. It depends what suits you.

Interested? Please get in touch at [sycamore@dmpc.org](mailto:sycamore@dmpc.org) or call in during café hours and speak to Ahn the manager – or ask Margaret Deas who helps there. It can be a bit hectic sometimes, but great fun!

### **CHURCH GROUNDS**

A big 'thank you' to everyone who works so hard in our grounds growing vegetables, weeding borders, trimming hedges and cutting grass.

If you would like to get involved on a regular basis, please speak to Anne Williams. If you don't have the time or energy for regular gardening, please feel free to pull out the odd weed in passing, or trim back encroaching brambles. Every little helps.

## REGULAR WORSHIP

The pattern used during the vacancy is in the Kalendar below, with known variations noted. This 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**

**Thursday**                *Evening Prayer on Zoom has been discontinued.*

**First Friday in the month**

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

## KALENDAR and READINGS

### September 2025

**Monday 1st September** – Giles of Provence, Abbot, c 710 – **Institution of Janet Spence as Rector 7 p.m.**

**Wednesday 3rd September** Gregory the Great, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 604 - **Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Colossians 1.1-8    Psalm 34.9-22    Luke 4.38-44

**Friday 5th September - NO Healing Eucharist**

**Sunday 7th September - THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Eucharist 10.30 a.m. NO 9 a.m. service**

*Readings:* Deuteronomy 30.15-20    Psalm 1  
Philemon 1-21                            Luke 14.25-33

Monday 8th September – The Birth of Mary, Mother of the Lord.

**Wednesday 10th September – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Colossians 3.1-11    Psalm 145.10-13    Luke 6.20-26

Saturday 13th September – Cyprian of Carthage, Bishop and Martyr, 256

**Sunday 14th September – HOLY CROSS DAY (Patronal Festival) – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Numbers 21.4b-9                  Psalm 98.  
                  1 Corinthians 1.18-24        John 3.13-17

Tuesday 16th September – Ninian of Whithorn, Bishop

**Wednesday 17th September – Hildegard of Bingen, Abbess – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* 1 Timothy 3.14-16                  Psalm 111.1-6                  Luke 7.31-35

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

**Sunday 21st September – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Amos 8.4-7                          Psalm 113  
                  1 Timothy 2.1-7                          Luke 16.1-13

Monday 22nd September – Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (trans. from 21st)

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

**Wednesday 24th September – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Ezra 9.5-9                          Psalm 48                          Luke 9.1-6

Thursday 25th September – Finnbar of Caithness, Bishop, c610

Saturday 27th September – Vincent de Paul, Priest, 1660

**Sunday 28th September – ST MICHAEL and ALL ANGELS (anticipated from 29th) – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

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

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

**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 – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

