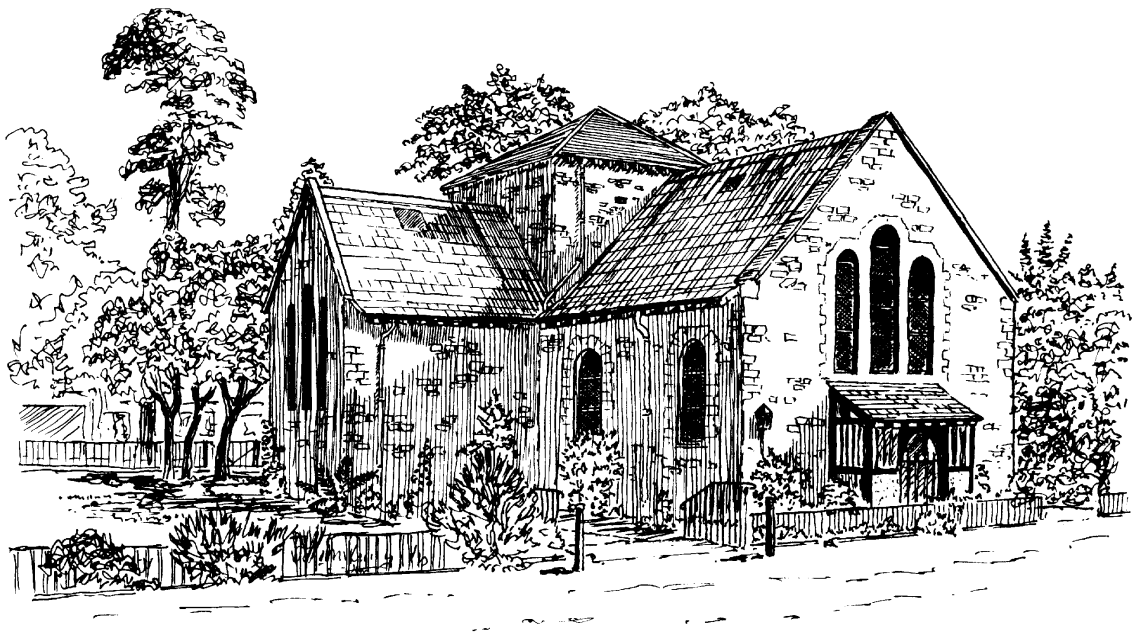


Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS

EDINBURGH

FEBRUARY 2026



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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All material should reach the Editor by then.

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FROM THE RECTOR

It has been a joy to journey with you all through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. We have travelled with the holy family to Bethlehem, watched their flight to Egypt as refugees fleeing the violence of the terrifying King Herod, and seen them return home to Nazareth, years later. We have witnessed those drawn to the birth of the Christ child: shepherds, animals, magi, angels and stars. And we have ourselves been drawn to this most wonderful story that speaks to us of hope, and light, and truth, and love.

Our services through December were all well attended, and we enjoyed much glorious music and singing of carols. Of course there is a huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes (80 oranges, prepared as Christingles, did not make themselves!). Thanks to everyone who offers support in many different ways.

It was particularly wonderful to welcome so many multi-generational families to our Christingle service; the Nativity story was heard, and all the children participated, bringing forward characters to create our Crib scene.

Children are part of our worshipping community with a very special gift to offer us all. When we are able to listen to them, they bring new insights through fresh, inspired, and sometimes awkwardly perceptive questions, and offer us opportunities to enjoy moments in our worship that might otherwise pass unnoticed. This is one reason why I am so keen to involve children directly in our liturgy through, for example, bringing up candles to be placed on the altar with the offertory. Our children, in moments of intense focus and care such as this, may experience – and present to us – profound encounters with God.

Through bringing together adults' and children's gifts in our worshipping community we create a rich harmony. Our children learn what it is to be part of the church's liturgy and the body of Christ, and we too learn from them and their unique gifts. Then together, we can respond to our call to worship God with the voice of the whole people of God. What a gift! Let us pray as a community that this gift will be discovered here at Holy Cross in the months and years to come.

In peace, and love,

Janet

ASH WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY
HOLY COMMUNION and IMPOSITION OF ASHES
10.30 a.m.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral: Jennie Corse on 19th December 2025

TREASURER'S REPORT

We are already four months into the 2025/26 financial year and also four months into Janet's incumbency. Where does the time go?

Since the beginning of September, our income and expenditure are broadly in line with our forecasts in the budget.

Seasonal Events and Charitable Donations

We had a number of seasonal events and charitable collections during Advent and Christmas.

Live Music Now Children's events. We had a series of concerts for toddlers and their families, which were well attended and very popular. They are provided free of charge by Live Music Scotland. We had collections at the concerts and donated £50 to the charity.

Carol Service. The retiring collection of £90 was split equally between Mary's Meals and Holy Cross. In addition, we raised a further £225 from Neville Long's collection box. I have sent a donation of £270 to Mary's Meals (see page 6).

Christingle Service. This was very well attended and popular and the collection of £180 has been donated to Pilton Youth and Children's Project.

Davidson's Mains Christmas Fair and Lights Switch on. Thousands of local people attended what has become a major annual event for the local association and for Holy Cross. The Davidson's Mains Association organise the event and use Holy Cross hall and grounds for some of their stalls. In return they put up the lights on the trees in our grounds and all the Christmas lights and decorations in the village. They also help us tidy up the grounds ahead of the event. This year they did a tremendous job helping us to cut back the heather encroaching on the car park and clearing the overgrown (flower) beds around the green shed. We gave them permission to instal a shed of their own next to ours to store the Christmas lights and decorations. They also pay us rent of £400 for the privilege of using the hall and grounds for the event.

Hall Kitchen Refurbishment

We agreed at the AGM to go ahead with the kitchen refurbishment with a proposed budget of £15,000. We have donations of more than £6,500 from 2025 and I am hopeful that we can raise the balance of £8,500 needed from further congregational giving and a grant from the Almond Vale community fund. We now need volunteers from the Vestry and congregation to oversee the project, fundraising and grant application. There is more detail on page 5.

Colin Mair, Treasurer

FROM THE VESTRY: HALL AND KITCHEN RENOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Plans for the redevelopment of the hall (and as part of that, the kitchen) have been changing and coming up against various challenges and barriers over the past few years. This has been a cause of frustration and disappointment for those involved.

It was felt to be important to keep everyone updated on the situation as it stands and to explain what the current proposals and timescale are (of course with some provisionality).

The previous ambitious plans for a complete redevelopment of the hall are now no longer viable, due to the absence of a project manager or a funding lead. Whilst this is disappointing it offers us the opportunity to ask ourselves, 'What is our vision for the hall as part of our mission?' We need to consider what we really want to do, and to create a team of people (the Hall Development Committee) who will work together to discern our way forward. This will ensure that work carried out on our hall enables it to remain the vibrant community hub that it is at present. Without this work, it is possible that we could lose lets which are a vital source of income for our church.

The first phase of work for this committee will be the kitchen redevelopment, for which fundraising has already raised over £6,500, and more has been pledged. This is encouraging, and we hope that there will be opportunities to apply for funding for the kitchen phase to help us reach our target of £15,000.

The kitchen redevelopment will require liaison with hall users, preparation of grant applications, collaborative work on the kitchen design and managing the purchase and fitting of the kitchen, which will hopefully take place during July.

Following this, the complete hall redevelopment can be considered. There is significant support for this type of project (including, but not limited to, funding options and support, and how to comply with the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) [Net Zero target](#)) from the Edinburgh Diocese and the SEC Province. Exploration of these would be the next phase of work for the Hall Redevelopment Committee.

If you have *any skills or expertise* that may be relevant to this exciting and essential work, and/or you have time and inclination to work as part of this team (and thereby have the satisfaction of supporting Holy Cross into the future) please speak to Janet, or to Colin Mair (Treasurer) asap.

And of course, please do keep praying that together we will discover and be able to implement the best plans for this step in the life and mission of Holy Cross Church, and to make the very best of its place as a significant resource in our local community.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

Before Christmas we were collecting money for the charity Mary's Meals, which was described in the November 2025 magazine. We have received a thank you letter from Marie Doyle, the Executive Director of Mary's Meals UK.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your precious gift of £270.00, which is helping us to transform the lives of hungry children around the world with a nutritious daily meal in school.

Your kindness is bringing food, joy and hope to the children who eat Mary's Meals, allowing them to make the most of their education and giving them the chance of a better future.

Our meals make a huge difference to children like Efigénia, in Mozambique. She faces serious challenges at home, especially lack of food. She says, 'It's hard to learn when I'm hungry. With school meals, I feel good because I have a meal and I can study'.

Mary's Meals is a source of hope for Efigénia and her family. With a daily school meal, she has the chance to achieve her dream of becoming a teacher. She says, 'Hope is important – my family know their children can have jobs that will help them'.

Today, more than three million hungry children in 16 countries around the world – including South Sudan, Ethiopia, Malawi and Mozambique – are sitting in classrooms with full stomachs, and learning how to read and write, thanks to supporters like you.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your incredible generosity which will have a life-changing impact on some of the world's poorest children, providing them with food, education and hope for a brighter future.

Registered charity SCO22140

www.marysmeals.org.uk

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to Sarah and her team for the Christmas decoration of the church, and to Jenny Harrison and Beverley Naidoo for filling gaps in December and January.

1st	February	Jenny Harrison
8th	February	?
15th	February	Margaret Deas
22nd	February	LENT The church remains unadorned until Easter.

Flower Rota 2026 is on the noticeboard. There are plenty of gaps after Easter – please fill them. If you wish to donate the flowers but cannot arrange them yourself, please speak to Sarah – sarahmillee@aol.com or 0131 237 5147.

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.



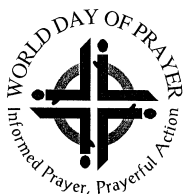
There is a big plastic box in Holy Cross for contributions. Thank you to everyone who donates so generously.

When Fr Ross was attached to both churches there was little difficulty in transferring goods from Davidson's Mains to Stenhouse. Now we are in need of helpers. At least one person has already offered, but a small team would be better. Can you help? Although St Salvador's is not all that far as the crow flies, public transport from our part of town involves two buses, so it is better if you can go by car.

The food pantry is open on Wednesday lunchtimes, after the morning service at St Salvador's. Delivery at this time should pose no problems. Otherwise, make arrangements with St Salvador's.

If you can help, please speak to Janet.

St David's at Pilton also has a Food Bank, and it may be that some of our donations will go there.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 6th March

St Margaret's R C Church, Davidson's Mains

7.00 p.m.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY and please come!

This year's service has been written by the Christian women of Nigeria. The theme, 'I will give you rest, come', is from Matthew 11.26-30. To learn more go to www.wwdp.org.uk

We are still looking for someone to take over as Holy Cross representative on the local World Day of Prayer committee. Since the Day of Prayer happens only once a year, and our local churches take it in turns to host the service, there is not a lot of work involved. Could you help?

Margaret Deas is continuing as our temporary representative for the moment, but will step down in March as soon as the service is over (or better still, before it starts). If no one comes forward to help, sadly, the many decades of active Holy Cross involvement will come to an end.

MAGAZINE PRODUCTION

Once upon a time, when the height of modern technology was a manual typewriter, the task of the magazine editor was to assemble all the contributions, make sure they were legible and made sense, and sort them into the right order for printing. The material then went off to the printer (a firm in Kirkcaldy) and returned as a magazine ready for distribution.

Sometime in the 1990s we modernised! Now it was the editor's job to format the magazine, which was then photocopied. This significantly cut the production costs. As more of us acquired computers and email, receiving material became easier and the online version of the magazine came into being.

Ever since we began to 'do it ourselves' we have used a desktop publishing programme called Publisher. Now Microsoft has decided to retire Publisher in October. Your editor's computer went into virtual hibernation at the beginning of the year (as did the editor) and when persuaded to wake up decided that it was already October, and refused to open Publisher. This forced me to move to Word without any practice at creating a booklet! As a result you may well find some oddities of text size and layout in this issue – my apologies.

Apologies also for some oddities of layout in the paper copies of the last magazine. My computer is not to blame here as the master copy printed perfectly. However, the photocopier decided to have a funny turn.

The days are lengthening and snowdrops are opening in my garden, so all being well, computer and I will be rather more awake and will make a better job of the March magazine. Computer has already decided, now this issue is almost finished, to open Publisher after all!

All contributions gratefully received. The deadline is still the 19th of the month – the last relic of professional printing days. The simplest way to send material is by email as a Word file attachment, but just text in an email is fine. Typed or handwritten on paper is acceptable too. I am quite good at deciphering illegible writing, and whatever the format will automatically go into schoolteacher mode for idiosyncratic spelling and incoherent sentences. (And if I don't, proofreader Angela will.)

Margaret Deas

ADVENTURES IN FAITH

From the Diocese:

The monthly [Adventures in Faith Newsletter](#) from Edinburgh Diocese shares lots of ideas for your ongoing Christian life. Each month, there are news items, courses, events and ideas for you to explore. Check out January's newsletter here: tinyurl.com/AiFJan26

You can read past mailings and sign up to receive future ones, via the diocesan website: <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/publications/adventures-in-faith-newsletter>

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 on the list on the noticeboard in church, and tell Janet. Payment into the church bank account, or by cash/cheque to the Treasurer, marking your donation 'Sanctuary Lamp'.

REGULAR WORSHIP

Sunday 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said)

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (sung)

Wednesday 9.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Contemplative Prayer

We meet in the presence of God and 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

We use the 1982 Scottish Liturgy for Communion services.

Variations are noted in the Kalendar.

KALENDAR AND READINGS FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday 1st February – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Candlemas) (anticipated from 2nd February) – **Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Malachi 3.1-4

Psalm 84

Hebrews 2.14-18

Luke 2.22-40

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

Readings: 2 Samuel 24.2,9-17 Psalm 32.1-8 Mark 6.1-6

Friday 6th February – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.

Sunday 8th February – FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 58.1-9a Psalm 112.1-9
1 Corinthians 2.1-12 Matthew 5.13-20

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

Readings: 1 Kings 10.1-10 Psalm 37.1-7,32-33,41-42 Mark 7.14-23

Sunday 15th February – SUNDAY BEFORE LENT – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Exodus 24.12-18 Psalm 99
2 Peter 1.16-21 Matthew 17.1-9

Wednesday 18th February – ASH WEDNESDAY – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Joel 2.1-2,12-17 Psalm 51.1-17
2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

Saturday 21st February – Eric Liddell, missionary

Sunday 22nd February – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Genesis 2.15-17;3.1-7 Psalm 32
Romans 5.12-19 Matthew 4.1-11

Wednesday 25th February – Ember Day – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Jonah 3.1-10 Psalm 51.1-2,11-13 Luke 11.29-32

Friday 27th February – Ember Day

Saturday 28th February – Ember Day

On Ember Days prayer is offered for all who serve the Church in its various ministries, both clerical and lay, and for all who are to be ordained or commissioned to these ministries.

Sunday 1st March – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Genesis 12.1-4a Psalm 121
Romans 4.1-5,13-17 Matthew 17.1-9