

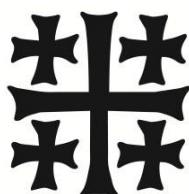
# Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS      EDINBURGH

APRIL 2026



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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All material should reach the Editor by then.

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## FROM THE RECTOR

In the course of writing this short message for the April magazine I have looked out through my study window at the brilliant golden daffodil petals shining and dancing in the sunlight, bringing me joy and hope of warmer sun-filled days; and then just minutes later, at driving rain and sleet pouring from heavy grey skies, battering at the window, and leaving me with a sense of dread and shivers through my body.

This year Holy Week is in April, when of course we shall celebrate Easter, Christ's resurrection, the core of our Christian faith. The pendulum of the changing weather and my responses to it are mirrored in the journey we take through Holy Week.

Jesus' last days with his disciples include moments of quiet, intimate encounter. Jesus washes their feet and they share a meal. Hours later, on that very same night, there is betrayal and distress.

On Good Friday we witness Jesus being tortured and executed, abandoned by even his closest friends. At the same time a stranger will carry his cross, a thief who is also dying will seek forgiveness, his mother and two other women will weep, witnessing the trauma of his suffering and death, and a Roman will recognise his true nature as the Son of God.

Finally, after a day of emptiness and unknowing – tomb Saturday – we, with Mary Magdalene and the disciples, will not only discover the astonishing empty grave, but also encounter the resurrected Christ.

It's a lot! It's an emotional rollercoaster. It's deeply distressing, and breathtakingly beautiful.

Holy Week gives us an opportunity to spend time with the events that ultimately enable us to live in the truth of the resurrection. In our daily lives, we are called to hold together the passion and the resurrection, at every step, in every moment. The risen Christ leads us to live lives that never deny the heavy clouds, the suffering in our world, the agonies of war, the pain that is inflicted through acts of violence. But Christ in his Passion entered into the reality of evil, and in his death and resurrection it is transformed.

Outside my window, the dark clouds have gone again and the blue sky is unbroken. It was always there of course; it was simply obscured by the clouds that were heavy with rain. Similarly, even in the midst of the darkest, most

despair-filled days, the truth of the resurrected Christ is also always there, carrying us forward with hope into the coming days.

I am reminded of lyrics from the 18th-century hymn 'God Moves in a Mysterious Way' by William Cowper. 'The clouds that you now dread are big with mercy, and will break in blessings on your head.'

With love,

Janet



## **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

Services are in Holy Cross unless otherwise stated.

### **PALM SUNDAY 29th March**

9 a.m. Said Eucharist with Blessing and Distribution of Palms

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist with Blessing and Distribution of Palms and Procession. Dramatic reading of the Passion.

3 p.m. Stations of the Cross at St David's, led by the Dean.

### **Wednesday in Holy Week 1st April**

9.30 a.m. Contemplative Prayer

10.30 a.m. Eucharist

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY 2nd April**

7 p.m. Eucharist and Washing of Feet. The Stripping of the Altar. The service ends in darkness and silence.

### **GOOD FRIDAY 3rd April**

2 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

### **HOLY SATURDAY – 4th April**

9 p.m. Easter Vigil at St Salvador's

### **EASTER DAY 5th April**

9 a.m. Blessing and Lighting of Paschal Candle. Said Eucharist.

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

5th April	EASTER DAY
12th April	?
19th April	?
26th April	Yvonne Boughton



**Easter Flowers** Sarah would welcome donations (in advance) to the cost. Please speak to her about help with arranging and any donations of flowers etc.

**Flower Rota 2026** is on the noticeboard. There are still plenty of spaces after Easter. Please sign up for any Sunday when you want to provide and arrange the flowers. If you wish to donate the flowers but are not able to arrange them yourself, please speak to Sarah – [sarahmillee@aol.com](mailto:sarahmillee@aol.com). She will help if she can, but is not always available. Please consult her before you sign up. Get in early if a particular date matters to you.



## UNBROKEN – the Princes Street Easter Play

**Saturday 4th April**

**2 p.m. in West Princes Street Gardens**

The Play is free and unticketed – just turn up.

It is outdoors and moves around the Gardens, so dress accordingly.

## **DIOCESAN LENT APPEAL ABERLOUR CHILDREN'S CHARITY**

Details of this year's Lent Appeal missed the March magazine. By the time you read this we shall be almost out of Lent, so please make your donation promptly. Visit Bishop's Lent Appeal at [edinburgh.anglican.org/2026/02/bishops-lent-appeal-2026](https://edinburgh.anglican.org/2026/02/bishops-lent-appeal-2026) and click 'Donate Now'. If you can't do this, speak to Colin. *Please note: Do not send individual donations to the Diocesan Office.*

Aberlour Children's Charity works to provide tailored support to families facing poverty, disadvantage and discrimination. It provides support at the earliest opportunity by offering a range of services across Scotland, utilising the voices of those impacted to create and implement tools for change. The charity has been in operation for just over 150 years, with a long and varied history, although giving every child the best possible start in life has always been at the heart of what they do. Aberlour offers a range of support services across Scotland including residential and foster care, recovery for families affected by addiction, disability care and support, and early years support. There is a focus on early intervention, which provides assistance before problems develop, balanced with an Urgent Assistance Fund to provide immediate relief in emergency situations. Learn more at [www.Aberlour.org.uk](http://www.Aberlour.org.uk)

Bishop Mark, Acting Bishop of Edinburgh, says:

'It's my great pleasure to write to you about an important and long-standing partnership with a Scottish children's charity; one which is especially close to my heart. Aberlour – Scotland's Children's Charity, as it's known today, was established in 1875 by Canon Jupp, one of my predecessors as Rector of St Margaret's, Aberlour. It was originally The Aberlour Orphanage but moved away from that work to become one of the foremost providers of children's support and development in Scotland. I have seen at first hand the work of Aberlour and have met with many of the young people they work with and care for. I'm proud to say that we, as a church, have an association with Aberlour.

'In 2025 Aberlour celebrated its 150th anniversary. The Chief Executive at the time [...] said: "*It is a milestone but a staging post too because, even after a century and a half, our journey is far from over. How we offer care, support and love to children in need has been transformed over the years but why we do it, and why we need to, has not changed at all*".

'Thank you for your generosity.'

+Mark

## HALL KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT

A small group has begun to meet regularly to push forward with our plans to upgrade the kitchen. Questionnaires have been sent to all those who make use of the kitchen, and those involved in preparing teas and coffees from our own congregation have also met to discuss options.

A substantial amount of work is needed before we can submit funding applications, including drawing up plans and getting comparative quotes, but the hope is to be ready to go ahead with the work during the school summer holidays.

Further updates to come!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Finances** Now that the weather has taken a turn for the better, I look forward to six months of lower gas and electricity usage and hence lower bills. Our gas is on a fixed price contract until July 2027, and our electricity prices are fixed until February 2028 so in the short term we will not be affected by price increases due to the conflict in the Gulf.

**Unexpected Expenses** Just when I thought we had completed all the remedial work on the Rectory, an unexpected cost has arisen. The old wooden shed/garage at the Rectory needs to be dismantled and removed. I thought it would be a relatively simple job for a local handyman to do, but it turns out that the roof contains asbestos and we need specialists to safely remove and dispose of it. The initial quote was £4,500, which is horrifying, considerably more than the cost of a new shed and an expense I didn't budget for. We are currently seeking other quotes – here's hoping that they are a bit cheaper. We will still have the cost of a new shed on top of this.

**St Salvador's Food Initiative** On Sunday 15th March we had a retiring collection for St Salvador's Food Initiative which raised £125. I have sent this money to them to help with the fantastic work that they do.

**Banking** We have made good progress opening the additional account with RBS which will allow us to continue online banking. RBS now accepts that Holy Cross is a Place of Worship and has opened the account for us. I am hoping that we can keep our existing account for receipt of congregational giving, and simply use the new account to pay bills, but that remains to be seen.

**Hall Bookings** I have signed up another new customer for Friday mornings, but unfortunately the Tuesday evening Brownies have stopped meeting due to a lack of volunteers to lead the group.

I have contacted City of Edinburgh Council concerning the election of 7th May, for which Holy Cross is a polling station. The council pays us well for the use of the hall, but it is hard work for me. I must be at the hall on Wednesday evening for them to set up the polling booths, open up for them at 6 a.m. on Thursday morning and then go back at 11 p.m. to dismantle the polling booths and put away the tables and chairs. Hard work but a welcome boost to our income. *(Is an energetic night owl available to give a hand on Thursday evening? Ed.)*

**Hall Kitchen Refurbishment** Further to the item on the kitchen refurbishment (page 7), I can report that we have received a further £400 in donations in the past month; the total fund now stands at £7,631 – just over half way to our target of £15,000. Over the past months, some of you have offered to contribute when needed. If you are one of these, then thank you – it would be helpful if you could make your contribution soon so that we can finalise a budget. If you would like to donate to the project, you can pay direct to:

Sort Code: 83-18-47

Account number: 00170278

Account name: Church of the Holy Cross

Please add the reference: 'Hall'

*Colin Mair*

*Treasurer*

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## **St SALVADOR'S COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE**



Sadly, Linda Farrer from the Food Initiative has broken her leg, and so was unable to speak at Holy Cross on 15th March. We wish her a speedy recovery. We still held the retiring collection which raised £125.

The box for donations is in the church. If you would like to join the team who deliver the contents to St Salvador's, please speak to Janet or Tricia Stott.

## **CHRIST HAS NO BODY**

St Teresa of Avila: 1515–1582

Janet hosted the Lenten course on a Friday at the Rectory, on the theme 'Christ has no body now but yours'. This is an appropriate time to share Teresa of Avila's poem.

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Born in Spain, Teresa of Avila entered a Carmelite convent when she was 18, and later earned a reputation as a mystic, reformer and writer who experienced divine visions. She founded a convent and wrote the book *The Way of Perfection* for her nuns. Other important books by her include her autobiography and *The Interior Castle*.

*Beverley Naidoo*

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## **REVELATIONS OF DIVINE LOVE**

Julian of Norwich: 1342–1416

*In view of Janet's comments on Mothering Sunday about the Motherhood of God, we are including a previous article containing Lady Julian of Norwich's comments on the same subject.*

Julian of Norwich dedicated her life to God by living as an Anchorite in a cell attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich. No one knows her real name so she has acquired the name of the church to which she was attached. The Church of St Julian can still be visited in Norwich. Miraculously, her writings have survived in which she describes her meditations and visions. 'Above all she has a gift for expressing profound thoughts in the simplest language.'

Addressing God as Father and Jesus as Son is the traditional way of approaching God but we know that it is a metaphor which expresses the fact that God has the attributes of fatherhood and of sonship. God, equally, has the attributes of

motherhood and of womanhood but these attributes are not traditionally much expressed. However, Julian in her book written in the 14th century writes very simply about the motherhood of God as expressed through Jesus. The following are some random extracts from her *Revelations of Divine Love* in which she gives a more balanced understanding of who God is:

‘Jesus Christ who sets good against evil is our real Mother. We owe our being to him – and this is the essence of motherhood! – and all the delightful, loving protection, which ever follows. God is as really our Mother as he is our Father.

Our great Father, together with the foresight and wisdom of the whole blessed Trinity, willed that the Second Person should become our Mother, Brother and Saviour. Hence it follows that God is truly our Mother as he is our Father.

We see that Jesus is the true Mother of our nature, for he made us. He is our Mother too by grace because he took our created nature upon himself. All the lovely deeds and tender services that beloved motherhood implies are appropriate to the Second Person.

A mother’s is the most intimate, willing and dependable of all services, because it is the truest of all. None has been able to fulfil it properly but Christ, and he alone can. We know that our own mother’s bearing of us was a bearing to pain and death, but what does Jesus our own Mother do? Why, he, All-love, bears us to joy and eternal life! Blessings on him!

Jesus needs to feed us...it is an obligation of his dear, motherly love. The human mother will suckle her child with her own milk, but our beloved Mother Jesus, feeds us with himself, and, with the most tender courtesy, does it by means of the Blessed Sacrament, the precious food of all true life.

In essence motherhood means love and kindness, wisdom, knowledge, goodness... A kind, loving mother, who understands and knows the needs of her child, will look after it tenderly just because it is the nature of a mother to do so. As the child grows older she changes her methods, but not her love. Older still she allows the child to be punished so that its faults are corrected and its virtues and graces developed. Like this I could see that our indebtedness, under God, to fatherhood and motherhood – whether it be human or divine – is fully met in truly loving God.

And he wants us to copy the child who always and naturally trusts mother’s love through thick and thin.’

*Revelations of Divine Love* is available in Penguin Classics

*Extracts by Neville Long*

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

We have a varied programme of activities for 2026. I look forward to seeing many of you at these events – *The Very Revd John Conway, Provost.*

**Cathedral Open Day**, organised by the Friends of the Cathedral  
Saturday 9th May, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Following the success of last year's Open Day, we are again inviting members of the Cathedral congregation, members of other churches, members of the local community and all other visitors to join us to find out more about the Cathedral and celebrate its life and work. Attractions include:

- Viewing Phoebe Traquair's murals in the Cathedral's Song School
- Tours of the bellringing chamber
- An information stall about the Cathedral's archives
- An exhibition of the Cathedral's vestments
- There will be a representative from the Diocesan Office
- Hot drinks will be available.

If you would be prepared to help welcome visitors on the day, please email: [friends@cathedral.net](mailto:friends@cathedral.net)

On the same day, there is an Active Travel, Active Hope event at the Cathedral, with guided walks, talks, performances, information stalls, a bike repair workshop and a 24-hour relay around the perimeter of the grounds. More information on the Cathedral website: [www.cathedral.net/event-details-registration/active-travel-active-hope-a-24-hour-relay](http://www.cathedral.net/event-details-registration/active-travel-active-hope-a-24-hour-relay)

**Friends of the Cathedral AGM** Sunday 21st June, 2.30 p.m. in the Cathedral Chapter House

Please join us for the AGM which is an opportunity to hear more about the work of the Friends and to raise any questions. As agreed at last year's AGM, this year's meeting has been brought forward earlier in the year, when the Cathedral will hopefully be a more comfortable temperature. Before the AGM, and after the Cathedral Eucharist, there is an opportunity for members to join the Congregational Picnic which is traditionally held on the last Sunday when the Cathedral Choir is in residence before their pre-Festival break. The Song School will also be open after the morning service. Tea and coffee will be served in the Chapter House at 2 p.m. prior to the AGM. After the meeting, you may also wish to attend Choral Evensong at 3.30 p.m..

Holy Cross is a member of the Friends of the Cathedral.

For more information, email [friends@cathedral.net](mailto:friends@cathedral.net) or contact The Secretary, The Friends of St Mary's Cathedral, c/o St Mary's Cathedral Office, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5AW



## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

This year's service, written by the Christian women of Nigeria was a joyous event, with a Nigerian choir accompanying themselves on drums, Nigerian speakers (mostly from St Margaret's), and the Lord's Prayer in Igbo and Yoruba. The change to an evening service may have deterred a few, but the congregation was larger than last year (we ran out of orders of service) and consequently so was the offering of £342.80. There was a good turnout from Holy Cross.

Next year it will be the turn of Davidson's Mains Parish Church to host the service on Friday 5th March – details nearer the time.

Beverley Naidoo, who has long experience of World Day of Prayer in South Africa, has kindly stepped in as our representative. Thank you, Beverley!

*Margaret Deas*

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

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## **FIRST AID COURSE**

A free first aid course is being offered at St James' Goldenacre. There are three-hour sessions on the mornings of Saturdays 9th and 16th May (exact times to be confirmed). There are limited places available (four including the Rector) so people should talk to Janet if they are interested. A certificate is given at the end of each session. One is on resuscitation, the other general first aid (burns, bandaging etc.).

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## REGULAR WORSHIP

**Sunday**            9.00 a.m.            Said Eucharist  
                         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 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 all our Communion services.

Variations are noted in the Kalendar.

**Holy Week and Easter services are listed on page 4.**

## KALENDAR and READINGS

### APRIL 2026

**Wednesday 1st April – Wednesday in Holy Week – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Isaiah 50.4-9a    Psalm 70    Hebrews 12.1-3    John 13.21-32

**Thursday 2nd April – MAUNDY THURSDAY – Eucharist with Foot washing**

*Readings:* Exodus 12.1-4,11-14            Psalm 116.1-2,12-19  
                         1 Corinthians 11.23-26            John 13.1-17,31b-35

**Friday 2nd April – GOOD FRIDAY – Good Friday Liturgy 2 p. m.**

NO Healing Eucharist

*Readings:* Isaiah 52.13-53.12            Psalm 22  
                         Hebrews 4.14-16;5.7-9            John 18.1-19.42

**Sunday 4th April – EASTER DAY – Eucharist 9 a.m. with Lighting of Paschal Candle and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Acts 10.34-43            Psalm 118.1-2,14-24  
                         Colossians 3.1-4            John 20.1-8

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

*Readings:* Acts 3.1-10            Psalm 105.1-9            Luke 24.13-35

**Sunday 12th April – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – Eucharist  
9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Acts 2.14a,22-32                      Psalm 16  
                  1 Peter 1.3-9                              John 20.19-31

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

*Readings:* Acts 5.17-26                      Psalm 34.1-8                      John 3.16-21

**Sunday 19th April – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – Eucharist  
9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Acts 2.14a,36-41                      Psalm 116  
                  1 Peter 1.17-23                              Luke 24.13-35

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

*Readings:* Acts 8.1b-8                      Psalm 66.1-6                      John 6.35-40

Saturday 25th April – St Mark, Evangelist

**Sunday 26th April – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Eucharist  
9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Acts 2.42-47                      Psalm 23  
                  1 Peter 2.19-25                              John 10.1-10

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

*Readings:* Acts 12.24-13.5a                      Psalm 67                      John 12.44-50

**Friday 1st May – St Philip and St James, Apostles – Healing Eucharist  
2 p.m.**

**Sunday 3rd May – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Eucharist 9 a.m.  
and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Acts 7.55-60                      Psalm 31.1-5,15-16  
                  1 Peter 2.2-10                              John 14.1-14



