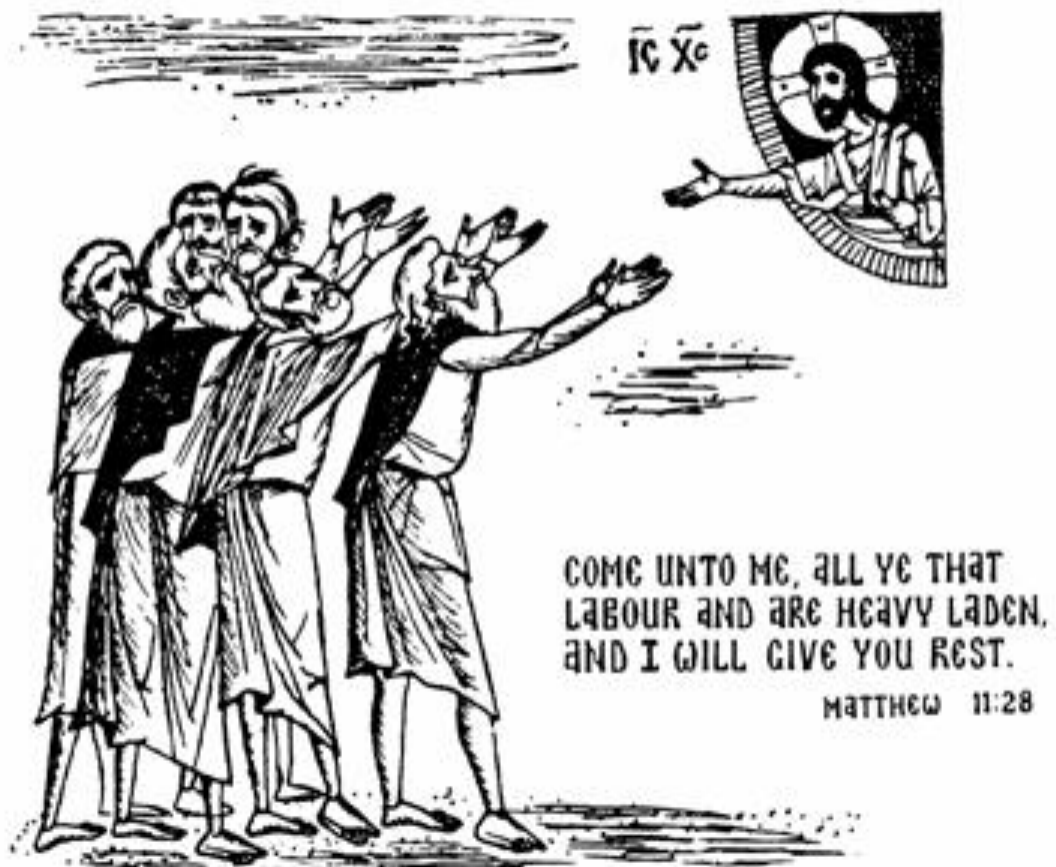


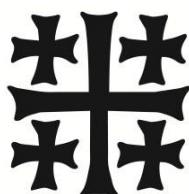
# Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS      EDINBURGH

MARCH 2026



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



<b>Rector</b>	The Revd Janet Spence The Rectory, 18 Barnton Gardens, EH4 6AF Tel: 07471 248114 <a href="mailto:rector@holycrossedinburgh.org">rector@holycrossedinburgh.org</a> <i>Days off (usually) Monday and Tuesday</i>
<b>Rector's Warden</b>	Mr Alan Kirkpatrick
<b>People's Warden</b>	Mrs Sally Mair <a href="mailto:holycrosswarden@gmail.com">holycrosswarden@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vestry Secretary</b>	Mrs Beverley Naidoo
<b>Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary</b>	Mr Colin Mair
<b>Magazine Editor and Distribution</b>	Mrs Margaret Deas <a href="mailto:margaretandeas@btinternet.com">margaretandeas@btinternet.com</a>

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

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

**Facebook** @HolyCrossEdinburgh **YouTube** Holy Cross Church Edinburgh  
**Instagram** @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

When this magazine reaches you, we will already be two weeks into Lent. Most of us will have some Lenten traditions, perhaps carried with us since childhood.

Lent is a journey of turning ever more fully towards God, towards Jesus who is Emmanuel, God with us. We turn towards Jesus so that, in the words of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, we might become the goodness of God.

But what does turning towards Jesus mean?

Many people choose to give things up during Lent, usually things that give us short term pleasure (chocolate, wine, tea and coffee). Traditionally this denying ourselves was a response to a desire to draw closer to Jesus in his journey through the forty days in the wilderness. Through giving up we discover that many things in life are luxuries, not necessities. We don't need them, and by choosing to deny ourselves, at least for a few weeks, we have a closer understanding of the things that Jesus gave up for us.

Lenten discipline can also be a time for positive action in order to help us to notice the extraordinary generosity and love of God in our lives. Some years I have committed to spending 30 minutes outside every day, no matter what the weather. Lent then became a powerful time of being in God's creation, noticing tiny daily changes, hearing, smelling, feeling, sensing the wonder of the world, on cold wet days as much as on warm days of spring sunshine.

Positive action may also be taking action to make God's love visible in our and others' lives by some kind of service to others: delivering a meal to or shopping for a neighbour or a friend in need; or taking a bag with you on a daily walk and filling it with litter that you find along the way.

And of course, Lent is a time when we, together and individually, have a wonderful opportunity to engage with what our faith means to us. To pray, perhaps to read a faith related book, to join the Lent course and journey together with our church community (it's not too late to join us on Friday mornings at the Rectory!). Through prayer, study and sharing, we may discover tender shoots of new growth in our faith lives.

So, as we journey together, may this season of Lent be a time of growth in knowledge and love of God for us all.

In peace and love,

Janet

## LENT COURSES

There are two Lent courses available this year.

**In person at Holy Cross** on Friday mornings from 10.30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Rectory for five weeks from 27th February to 27th March.

**Online from St David's** Father Joe is running an online Lent course on Fridays at 8 p.m. Further details from him: [frjoseph5@gmail.com](mailto:frjoseph5@gmail.com)



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**FRIDAY 6th MARCH**

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

**7 p.m.** (*Apologies for the mistake in last month's paper magazine.*)

**'I will give you rest, come'**

This year's service has been written by the Christian women of Nigeria. The theme is from Matthew 11.26-30. To learn more, visit [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

Everyone is welcome at this ecumenical service. Please come.

We still need someone to take over as Holy Cross representative on the local committee. The World Day of Prayer happens only once a year, and our local churches take it in turns to host the service, so there is not a lot of work involved. Could you help? If so, please contact Margaret Deas.

\*\*\*\*\*

## DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS

**Thursday 19th March at 5.30 p.m. in St Mary's Cathedral**

This is a special moment in the church year when the Diocese comes together in the Cathedral for various things:

- All those ordained, deacons and priests, and lay readers, renew their vows, first made at their licensing/ordination
- New oil is blessed and distributed to all the charges: *Oil of Chrism*, for baptisms, confirmations and ordinations; and *Oil of Healing*, for anointing of those who are sick, and used in our monthly healing service.

The service is for the whole Diocese, so everyone is very welcome to attend, to support those who lead in our Diocese, and to connect with others from all the churches of the Diocese. There are refreshments for all after the service.



## **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

### **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**

Easter Vigil at St Salvador's – to be confirmed

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

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

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

**Volunteers needed** as welcomers, readers etc. for services not on the regular rota. There will be a list on the noticeboard.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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'.

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

The church remains unadorned until Easter.

**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. Thank you to Neville for filling the gap in February. There are still plenty of spaces after Easter. Please sign up for any Sunday when you want to provide and arrange the flowers. You don't need to be an expert flower arranger – a simple bunch of flowers in a vase is just as welcome. There is a good selection of vases in the vestry. If you haven't done the flowers before, why not give it a try?

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 she has a life beyond the flower rota and is not always available. Consult her before you sign up. Get in early if a particular date matters to you.

\*\*\*\*\*

## St SALVADOR'S COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE

'Never volunteer' is a maxim one hears quite regularly. However, when Janet, our Rector and I paid a visit to the food initiative in St Salvador's we saw just how important volunteering is. For us, it was our first journey to deliver the food from the white box in our church and we now have a small team who have undertaken to deliver items on a more regular basis – if you'd like to be one of the occasional drivers please do speak to me (Tricia).

On our arrival we found a friendly bustling atmosphere. Everyone, and that included us, was offered a warm drink and a biscuit. Some people sat and chatted too, perhaps making new friends. Fresh food is donated by the Cyrenians and on our first visit this consisted of potatoes and bread. There is also an area where the canned and packaged items are stored from which people can make a selection.



Ross and Father Joe were also very much in evidence and Ross spoke of how those who use the facility have difficulties for many reasons: people on Universal Credit, students paying high rents, refugees finding their feet, just lonely or needing a warm place. All were welcomed and if they needed someone to talk to, that was available too. All our offerings were so warmly received it was humbling to be part of this initiative and I am glad I did volunteer!

*Tricia Stott*



## NEW BISHOP OF EDINBURGH

The Right Reverend Dr Dagmar Winter was elected on 14th February as the new Bishop of Edinburgh. She will take up her post later in the year.

Bishop Dagmar currently serves as the Bishop of Huntingdon, a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Ely. Since 2023 she has also been Acting Bishop of Ely.

She is Vice-President of the Conference of European Churches which runs a number of projects, especially *Pathways to Peace*, a coordinated response of the European church fellowship to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. With a particular interest in New Testament scholarship, she has contributed to a number of English and German books and journals.

Bishop Dagmar, of British and Swiss-German descent, was ordained as deacon in 1996 and as priest in 1997. She has worked in the Dioceses of Rochester and then Newcastle. She was consecrated as bishop in 2019.

Following the election, the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Most Rev Mark Strange, said:

‘I am delighted to welcome Bishop Dagmar as Bishop-Elect into this new season of ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Church, and I am looking forward to welcoming her to the College of Bishops. The gifts she brings will enhance the life and mission of the Church.

I would also like to thank everyone who took part in the process for their prayerful work. Please keep Bishop Dagmar in your prayers as we plan her installation and new beginnings in Scotland.’

The Bishop-Elect said:

‘I am hugely honoured to have been elected as the next Bishop of Edinburgh and would like to thank most warmly all those involved in the thorough process, indeed, in electing me.

I rejoice in the diversity and inclusivity of the Diocese of Edinburgh and can’t wait to get to know all the clergy and people in the charges from the Tweed to the Firth of Forth – your joys, your challenges, your opportunities. I firmly believe that the Scottish Episcopal Church has a unique voice to share in today’s world, and I am committed to supporting and encouraging all who contribute to its mission and ministry and to raising its profile further. I also look forward to joining the College of Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church. As I pray for you, please pray for me as I prepare to leave Ely and join you in Edinburgh.’

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The weather has been cold through most of December, January and February. As Treasurer, I especially notice this when the monthly direct debits for gas and electricity come off our bank account. Over the last two months we have paid nearly £2,000 on gas and electricity for the church and hall. I look forward to the spring and summer when temperatures are higher and heating costs are lower, but I feel it is important that we have a reasonably warm building for our church services. We have budgeted for this level of cost over the winter months, and our financial position remains in line with the budget we set at the AGM.

### **Banking**

We have banked with the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) for decades. Recently they informed us that our Treasurer's Account was outdated and not suitable for online banking. I am in the process of opening an RBS account which will allow us to continue online banking. This hasn't been easy and has involved many hours on the phone to the business banking helpline, mostly listening to piped music. The latest hold up is they want me to provide certification that Holy Cross is a place of worship – despite the fact that we have had an account with them named Church of the Holy Cross for over 40 years.

### **Hall Bookings**

The hall continues to be well used by the Holy Cross congregation and the local community and is a welcome source of extra income to help offset our costs. We have a wide range of different groups as regular users, including an after school club, Brownies, Guides, fitness club and pilates, yoga and art classes, not to mention the Indian Orthodox congregations. We had lots of empty sessions two years ago when the old after school club and the Reindeer Playgroup closed but we have been able to fill most of these slots with new groups.

### **Hall Kitchen Refurbishment**

Many thanks to those from the congregation who have volunteered to help with the project, and also to those who have given money. As I write, congregational donations total £7,231 – just short of half way to our target of £15,000.

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*

## LET'S LEARN THE LORD'S PRAYER IN FINNISH!

We are a member of the [Porvoo Communion](#), a communion of Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran churches in Europe, established in 1992 by the Porvoo Common Statement. Through the Porvoo Communion, the Scottish Episcopal Church has been in full communion with the Lutheran churches of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Estonia and Lithuania since 1994. More information is on the Diocesan website: [edinburgh.anglican.org/the-porvoo-communion](http://edinburgh.anglican.org/the-porvoo-communion)

**Twinning with the Diocese of Espoo** As part of the Porvoo Communion, the Diocese of Edinburgh is twinned with the [Diocese of Espoo, Finland](#). There have been numerous recent visits by Edinburgh Diocese to Espoo Diocese.

**Praying for each other** The Porvoo Declaration commits its churches to 'share a common life' and to 'pray for and with one another'. One way of doing this is to pray for the Porvoo churches and their Dioceses using the [Porvoo Prayer Diary](#). Edinburgh Diocese recently committed itself to learning the Lord's Prayer in Finnish. Our Finnish counterparts speak wonderful English and we want to participate in their liturgy when we meet together, even if just a little. We invite everyone to join us, using the words below. The Diocesan website has a link to a recording. (Note that Finnish is pronounced much how it looks – so just go for it!)

### Lord's Prayer – Finnish

Isä meidän, joka olet taivaissa.  
Pyhitetty olkoon sinun nimesi.  
Tulkoon sinun valtakuntasi.  
Tapahtukoon sinun tahtosi,  
myös maan päällä niin kuin taivaassa.  
Anna meille tänä päivänä  
meidän jokapäiväinen leipämme.  
Ja anna meille meidän syntimme anteeksi,  
niin kuin mekin anteeksi annamme niille,  
jotka ovat meitä vastaan rikkoneet.  
Äläkä saata meitä kiusaukseen,  
vaan päästä meidät pahasta.  
Sillä sinun on valtakunta  
ja voima ja kunnia iankaikkisesti.  
Aamen.

## 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 5.**

## KALENDAR AND READINGS MARCH 2026

**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        John 3.1-17

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

*Readings:*    Jeremiah 18.18-20            Psalm 31.1-5,13-16            Matthew 20.17-28

**Friday 6th March – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.**

**Sunday 8th March – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:*    Exodus 17.1-7                Psalm 95  
                     Romans 5.1-11                John 4.5-42

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

*Readings:*    Deuteronomy 4.1,5-10            Psalm 147.13-21            Matthew 5.17-20

**Sunday 15th March – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:*    1 Samuel 16.1-13                Psalm 23  
                     Ephesians 5.8-14                John 9.1-41

**Tuesday 17th March – St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland c 461**

**Wednesday 18th March – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. –  
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Isaiah 49.8-15                      Psalm 145.8-15                      John 5.19-30

Thursday 19th March – Joseph of Nazareth

**Sunday 22nd March – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Eucharist 9 a.m.  
and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Ezekiel 37.1-14                      Psalm 130  
Romans 8.6-11                      John 11.1-45

**Wednesday 25th March – Contemplative Prayer 9.30 a.m. –  
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Daniel 3.13-28                      Psalm 24.1-6                      John 8.31-47

**Sunday 29th March – PALM SUNDAY – Eucharist 9 a.m. and  
10.30 a.m. with Blessing and Distribution of Palms**

*Readings:* Isaiah 50.4-9a                      Psalm 31.9-16  
Philippians 2.5-11                      Matthew 26.14-27.66

Monday 30th March – Monday in Holy Week

Tuesday 31st March – Tuesday in Holy Week

**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

