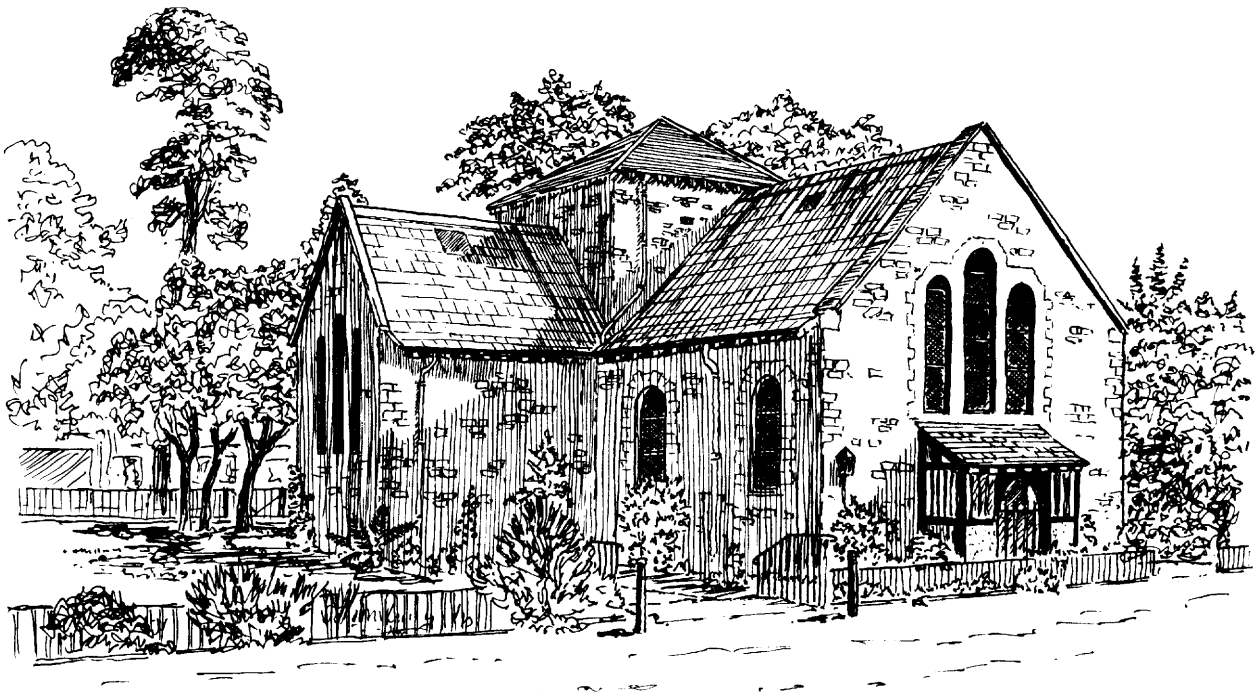


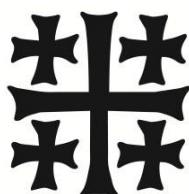
# Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS      EDINBURGH

MAY 2026



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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## FROM THE RECTOR

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

What a joy it was to celebrate together on Easter morning with a packed church, wonderful music and singing, and a vibrant sense of resurrection hope!

This month, we continue our journey together through the Church's year, through the 50 days between Easter and arriving at Pentecost, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit that was received by the early church. 'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.' Acts 2

During this Eastertide season, we have Christian Aid Week, which this year focuses on the theme of the Church as a 'Beacon of Hope'. There is an uplifting [short film produced by Christian Aid](#) which tells of an inspiring partner project in Nairobi that teaches women about food production on a very small scale in order that their families have sufficient food, and enables them to sell any excess to raise an income.

Planting seeds, tending them and harvesting foods to give life. The cycle of life is, in some ways, very simple. It is always a gift, but it still requires our patient care and attention.

We shall gather 'all together in one place' on Sunday 10th May (Christian Aid Sunday) to share a simple but nutritious bread and cheese lunch after our 10.30 service. As we gratefully enjoy good food and company, we will think of those who are less fortunate than we are, and collect donations to support the work of Christian Aid. It will be a time of nurture for us as a community, as well as connecting us to, and expressing our wish to nurture, the work of the Church across the world.

Perhaps we can reflect and pray this month on what the coming of the Holy Spirit might mean in our lives, and our shared life at Holy Cross.

With love,

Janet

There is a lot happening in May!

Saturday 9th May	Cathedral Open Day
10th to 16th May	Christian Aid Week
Sunday 10th May	Rogation Procession and Christian Aid Lunch
Thursday 14th May	Ascension Day
Sunday 17th May	Preacher from The Leprosy Mission
Sunday 24th May	Pentecost – joint service in afternoon
Saturday 30th May	Bishop's Installation

More information elsewhere in the magazine.

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who helped to beautify the church for Easter.

3rd May	Jane Allan
10th May	Jane Allan
17th May	Nicole Elvin
24th May	In memory of Betty Smith
31st May	?



**Flower Rota 2026** is on the noticeboard. There are still plenty of spaces. 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.

## ROGATIONTIDE

On Rogation Days prayer is offered for God's blessing on the fruits of the earth and the labours of mankind.

**BLESSING OF THE CHURCH GARDENS**  
after 10.30 a.m. service on Sunday 10th May

*Thou visitest the earth and blessest it.*  
*Thou crownest the year with thy goodness.*

This year Rogation coincides with Christian Aid Week. Remember those whose harvests will not be great.



## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK** **10th to 16th May**

The house-to-house collection still continues in some areas, including Cramond Parish. If an envelope pops through your door, please fill it and return according to the instructions. If not, the Christian Aid website [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) will tell you how to give online or by post.

### **CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ EVENING**

**Cramond Kirk Hall on Wednesday 6th May 7 for 7.30 p.m.**

Spaces are available for this fun evening which comes with a glass of wine and nibbles. Tickets £5 per person. You can pay on the night, but please book in advance. Make up a team of four to six people, or just come along and the organisers will find you a team to join. Entry forms from the Kirk Office or email [office@cramondkirk.org.uk](mailto:office@cramondkirk.org.uk)

### **BOOK SALE – Edinburgh New Town Church**

**Saturday 9th May – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Monday 11th to Friday 15th May 12 noon to 6 p.m.**

Books of all kinds. Stamps, Ephemera, Jigsaws, Games

The Undercroft Café is open at its usual hours of 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

### **BREAD and CHEESE LUNCH**

After 10.30 a.m. service – see From the Rector on page 3.

### **THURSDAY 14th MAY**

### **ASCENSION DAY**

### **EUCCHARIST 10.30 a.m.**

Ascension Day, falling on a weekday which is not a public holiday, is too often overlooked. Yet it is a vital part of the sequence which leads us from the horror of Good Friday to the rejoicing of Easter Day, and on to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We should mark it if we can.

Hymn writer G H Bourne sums it up:

*Alleluya, alleluya, risen, ascended, glorified!*

(Try to sing that without a smile on your face)

## **SPEAKER FROM THE LEPROSY MISSION**

At our 10.30 a.m. service on Sunday 17th May we will welcome Steven McLeish, Scotland Country Head of The Leprosy Mission, to speak to us about their work. There will be a retiring collection for the Leprosy Mission at the end of the service.



### **THE DAY OF PENTECOST**

**Sunday 24th May**

**3 p.m. ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

**on Silverknowes Promenade**

**organised by local churches**

We meet on the grass near the café at the foot of Silverknowes Road. Bring a seat if you don't like standing or sitting on the grass.

If the weather is bad we'll meet at Cramond Kirk Halls.

*Have you learnt the Lord's Prayer in Finnish? This could be the perfect time to try out your skills.*

### **INSTALLATION OF BISHOP DAGMAR**

**Saturday 30th May at 11 a.m. in the Cathedral**

This will be a ticketed event to ensure there is room for the whole diocese to be represented. Each congregation will receive an allocation of tickets for distribution. Janet will be in charge of ours.

### **PRAYER AND A PINT**

A new weekly silent prayer (in addition to Wednesday morning) began on 23rd April and will take place every Thursday evening in Holy Cross Church, starting at 7.15 p.m. and finishing at 7.45 p.m.

For those who wish to join, it will be followed by social time in Ye Olde Inn from 8.00pm. All are welcome. Further information from Simon Spence.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

We now have a new business bank account, though we are still with the Royal Bank of Scotland. The new account details are:

<b>Sort Code</b>	<b>83-18-47</b>
<b>Account Number</b>	<b>16084266</b>
<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Church of the Holy Cross</b>

Ultimately, we will only use this new account.

As Treasurer, I need to move all the regular payments we make from the church bank account: stipend, pension, quota, insurance, gas, electricity, rates, cleaning, etc. so they are paid from the new account.

I will be contacting all our hall users to ask them to pay their hall rental into the new account.

**I am now asking you, our congregation, if you could please also change your future donations so they come into the new account.**

- Those of you who make payments to the church via online banking should create a new payee for future payments.
- If you pay by standing order, you should then create a replacement standing order to this new payee (account).
- Once this is in place you should delete the old standing order.

The best time to do this may be just after your payment is made to the old account, so that the instruction is in place before the next payment is due. There is no rush to do this, as the old account will not be closed but it would be good if we could move things over to the new account over the course of the next few months.

If you have any difficulty with the above, or do not use online banking, then your bank branch should be able to guide you. It is a fairly simple process and doesn't take long.

Can I suggest that if you have not done so for a while, this may be a good time to review the amount that you give on a regular basis. Sadly, our costs continue to increase.

*Colin Mair, Treasurer*

## HALL KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT

You may have noticed a small group of people meeting at coffee times on Sunday mornings – we have been working together on the hall kitchen plans. You'll be glad to hear that at last we are making progress with the project. We have now had quotes from three different companies and are comparing them closely before choosing.

Fundraising continues to go well thanks to generous donations from the congregation. The fund now stands at £10,431 towards a target of £15,000.

If you would like to make a donation it is not too late! It can be given to me or, if you are able to, it can be paid directly into either bank account – please use the reference 'Kitchen'.

We are committed to finishing this project and our target is to have all work completed in time for the start of the new school term in August. It is going to be a tremendous asset to us, and also when it comes to letting out the hall.

*Colin Mair*

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## CATHEDRAL OPEN DAY

**Saturday 9th May, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Following the success of last year's Open Day, the Friends of St Mary's Cathedral 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. Holy Cross is a member of the Friends. 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.

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-daytime-event-and-24-hour-relay](http://www.cathedral.net/event-details-registration/active-travel-active-hope-daytime-event-and-24-hour-relay)

As we approach *Corpus Christi* – the celebration of the Eucharist – it seems a good time to repeat Neville’s article.

## **A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE EUCHARIST**

‘The best definition of a man, his chief characteristic, that which makes him to be himself, is gratitude, thanksgiving.’ (Metropolitan Kallistos)

The Church has always considered the Eucharist to be the central act of its existence because Jesus himself said ‘*Do this*’. It is a command to be fulfilled, not a service like Matins or Evensong, invented in the first instance as a monastic observance and later transformed at the Reformation. In the East it is called the Liturgy and in the West it is Mass, the Eucharist or Holy Communion. The Eucharist, as we prefer to call it, means thanksgiving and this is one of the main themes of the service. There are other important themes. It is not just the fulfilment of a command, it is also a guide to living our everyday lives, but, as in every aspect of faith, that is easier said than done.

So when we reach ‘The Great Thanksgiving’ the familiar refrain starts:

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts.      *People:* We lift them to the Lord.

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.      *People:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then at the consecration of the bread and wine the priest continues: He took bread and *offered you thanks* and He took the cup and *offered you thanks*.

One can say that it is Jesus’ act of thanksgiving over the bread and the wine and the priest’s re-enactment of this action that brings the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ into the present. It is significant that he chose bread as a symbol of the necessities of life, and wine, a symbol of the pleasures of life, as the vehicle for bringing the reality of his presence to every generation.

The meaning of this for me is that just as he transforms everyday things such as bread and wine into the means for making himself present, so being thankful for the necessities and pleasures in our own life can also be life transforming. Circumstances in our lives that are happy, sad, difficult or impossible can be turned into something life-enhancing and positive in a spirit of thanksgiving for what cannot be changed. The life of Helen Keller springs to mind. She was blind, deaf and dumb, a circumstance one might consider impossible to change, but with the help of a friend, persistence and faith she learnt to read and talk, and her life was transformed into a positive gift to the world. She graduated from university and travelled the world giving lectures and inspiring people.

Another such was Maiti Gertanner – and there are countless others – a Swiss citizen and a veteran of the French Resistance, who was cruelly tortured by a Gestapo doctor. His actions robbed her of a life as a promising pianist and she

spent the rest of her life in pain. Eric Varden writes of her in *The Shattering of Loneliness*, 'She cultivated the certainty that the threads of what she was living through were woven into a story, which, in time, would reveal its meaning, perhaps even a beauty of sorts.... The example of Christ sustained her. Even as he suffered she clung to the conviction that providence was operative in her pain'. Thankfulness for what she did have, not regret for what might have been, transformed suffering into grace. Thanksgiving helps to overcome envy, jealousy, the wish to be someone different or be in another place where the grass is greener.

William Sieghart wrote recently in *The Poetry Pharmacy* that 'we are all in need of a doorway into thanks and a way of relating to the world without our egos'. For Christians the Eucharist is that very doorway, as it is a weekly reminder that thankfulness is of the essence of Christian living.

*Neville Long*

### **PRAYING**

It doesn't have to be  
the blue iris, it could be  
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few  
small stones; just  
pay attention, then patch  
a few words together and don't try  
to make them elaborate, this isn't  
a contest but the doorway  
into thanks, and a silence in which  
another voice may speak.

*Mary Oliver*

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



The non-referral food pantry operates every Wednesday between midday and 1.30 p.m. Its clients may be single people or whole families from a variety of backgrounds. The common factor is a low income, which even with the most careful budgeting cannot keep up with the rising cost of basic living.

The box for donations of non-perishable food, and of cleaning and hygiene items, is in church. For more information go to St Salvador's website [www.stsalvadors.co.uk](http://www.stsalvadors.co.uk). If you would like to join the team who deliver the contents of the box to St Salvador's, please speak to Janet or Tricia Stott.

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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'. In May the lamp burns in memory of Helen Allan.

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## **FIRST AID COURSE – change of date**

The free first aid course at St James' Goldenacre will now have the two sessions on the same day – the morning and afternoon of Saturday 16th May (exact times to be confirmed). There are limited places available so people should talk to Janet if they are interested. A certificate is given at the end of each session. One session is on resuscitation, the other general first aid (burns, bandaging, etc.).



**Wednesday 13th May – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Acts 17.15,22-18.8      Psalm 148      John 16.12-20

**Thursday 14th May – ASCENSION DAY – Eucharist 10.30 a.m. – Silent Prayer 7.15 p.m.**

*Readings:* Acts 1.1-11      Psalm 47  
Ephesians 1.15-23      Luke 24.44-53

Friday 15th May – St Matthias, Apostle (trans from 14th)

**Sunday 17th May – SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Acts 1.6-14      Psalm 68.1-10,32-35  
1 Peter 4.12-14;5.6-11      John 17.1-11

**Wednesday 20th May – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. - Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Acts 20.28-38      Psalm 68.28-36      John 17.11b-19

**Thursday 21st May – Silent Prayer 7.15 p.m.**

**Sunday 24th May – THE DAY OF PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Acts 2.1-21      Psalm 104.24-34,35b  
1 Corinthians 12.3b-13      John 20.19-23

**Wednesday 27th May – Ember Day – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* 1 Peter 1.18-2.1      Psalm 147.13-21      Mark 10.32-45

**Thursday 28th May – Silent Prayer 7.15 p.m.**

Friday 29th and Saturday 30th May – Ember Days

**Sunday 31st May – TRINITY SUNDAY – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Genesis 1.1-2,4a      Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13.11-13      Matthew 28.16-20

Monday 1st June – The Visit of Mary to Elizabeth (trans. from 31st May)

**Wednesday 3rd June – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* 2 Timothy 1.1-12      Psalm 123      Mark 12.18.27

**Thursday 4th June – Corpus Christi – Silent Prayer 7.15 p.m.**

**Friday 5th June – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.**

**Sunday 7th June – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –  
Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

*Readings:* Hosea 5.15.-6.6  
Romans 4.13-25

Psalm 50.7-15  
Matthew 9.9-13,18-26

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