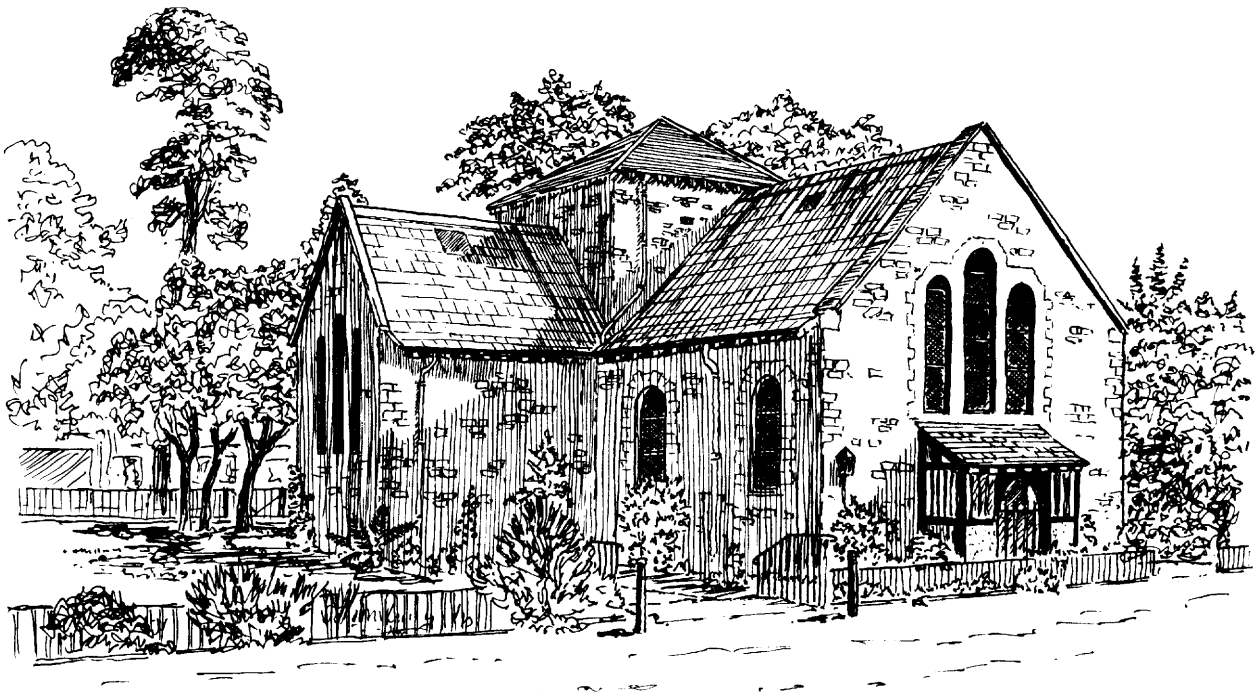


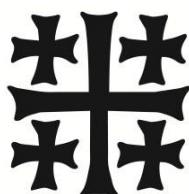
Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS EDINBURGH

JULY/AUGUST 2026



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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FROM THE RECTOR

Last month Simon and I went to a showing of a recent documentary film, *Sailm nan Daoine (Psalms of the People)*. It's a beautiful, gentle documentary that travels from Carlisle in the Borders to Skye and the Outer Hebrides, and then over to Belfast, seeking out communities where the tradition of community Psalm singing continues today. At the end of the film, Rob MacNeacail handed out photocopies of two verses of Psalm 38, and led us in a workshop of Psalm singing, with him 'putting out the line', and the gathered people (about 60 of us) singing the line back to him. The two verses took about five minutes to sing, and we gradually became more confident in exploring the musical pathway from one note and syllable to the next, never held to notes on the page, but encouraged to play with our voices. The sound was incredible; no instruments, just voices, with the sound rising and falling like the waves of the tide. More powerful still, the sense of togetherness and of slowed down sinking into the Psalm verses was extraordinary.

The Psalms fall into different categories: praise/hymns, thanksgiving, wisdom, royal, imprecatory and, the largest category, lament. The entire range of human experience is captured in the Psalms, from the heights of joy to the depths of despair. The writers were not afraid to bring fear, delight, shame, exuberance, repentance and longing into prayer with God. Somehow, being given permission to express these emotions (the naming of some of which may be socially unacceptable) in the safety of a community, and the boundaries of the text, we can discover that we, too, can bring our whole selves to God.

Perhaps this is more important than ever, as we witness situations of conflict and suffering around the world, not least the conflicts in the Middle East, including Iran. This month, on 10th July, we have a wonderful opportunity to hear a concert of Persian music performed by Behnam Pour, an Iranian Christian, who now lives in the UK. Behnam has won several awards for his work, but when I met him last month I was particularly struck by his concern for those friends and family still in Iran, whose Christian faith must necessarily be hidden from the authorities for fear of persecution. His principal motivation for performing at Holy Cross is to be able to send a video of his concert back home, to encourage the people there that they are being thought about, and their suffering acknowledged, in Edinburgh. Please do come along, bring your friends, enjoy some incredible music making, and offer your support to our fellow Christians simply by being there and thinking of them.

Janet

CONCERT
FRIDAY 10th JULY
7.00 p.m. in Holy Cross Church
Behnam Ghazanfaripour – santour player and singer.

The santour is a traditional Persian instrument, sometimes called the hammered dulcimer.

Behnam is an Iranian Christian who had to flee Iran due to persecution. He says, 'As a Christian myself, my music carries a deeper spiritual purpose. The message of this concert is to create a bridge of unity and solidarity between Christians in Iran – who are living under very difficult circumstances – and the Christian community here in Scotland. Through this performance, I hope to share not only the beauty of Persian music but also a message of hope, faith and connection.'

See *'From the Rector'*, page 3.

BARBECUE
SUNDAY 16th AUGUST
in the church grounds
after the 10.30 a.m. service
(in the hall if wet)

No tickets – there will be a bowl for donations

A list of things needed will be available at coffee nearer the time. There will also be a sign-up sheet to give an idea of numbers, including of vegetarians.

PROGRESS!

If everything goes to plan, the new hall kitchen will be delivered at the end of June. We may have a Sunday surrounded by boxes with coffee in paper cups, but by the time you read this our lovely new kitchen should be installed. The coffee makers can resume work in much better surroundings. Please look after the kitchen. Wipe up any spills, put things away in their proper places and generally keep it looking new for as long as possible.

The roadworks continue, with the diversion to reach our car park, but the buses are back to normal and there are temporary pedestrian lights.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

5th	July	?	2nd	August	?
12th	July	Paula Ingram	9th	August	?
19th	July	?	16th	August	?
26th	July	?	23rd	August	?
			30th	August	?

Flower Rota 2026 is on the noticeboard. As you can see, **there are still LOTS of spaces. Please sign up** for any Sunday when you would like to provide and arrange the flowers. Please don't leave everything to Sarah. A simple vase of flowers is fine if you do not consider yourself a 'flower arranger'. There is a varied selection of containers in the vestry cupboard.

If you want to donate the flowers but cannot arrange them yourself, please speak to Sarah Millee. She will help if she can, but she is not always available. Please consult her before you sign up. Get in early if a particular date matters to you.

PENTECOST AT SILVERKNOWES

Once again people from many local churches gathered on the grass by the sea at Silverknowes to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, and once again the sun shone on us.

We heard the story of that first Pentecost dramatically read by many voices. Two young women from different churches told how they came to faith, in one case by forgetting to take her Kindle on holiday and having nothing to read while her children slept – except the Gideon Bible in the hotel room. We prayed, hearing the Lord's Prayer in languages from Irish Gaelic to a Filipino dialect, and many points in between, before saying it ourselves in whatever language we chose.

And, of course, we sang!

'Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.'

Graham Kendrick

BISHOP DAGMAR'S INSTALLATION



Barely a week after celebrating Pentecost a group from Holy Cross joined with people from all over the diocese to see Dagmar Winter installed as Bishop of Edinburgh.

Apart from the choir and diocesan clergy, the procession included the College of Bishops, retired bishops, bishops of companion dioceses, ecumenical guests and many more, with a wonderful array of vestments. (There was a dress code which I am sure did not allow for a retired bishop in purple cassock and biretta.) It took all seven verses of 'All creatures of our God and King' to get them into their places. The nave too was full, mainly of laity. With so many people and the sun shining outside our often chilly Cathedral felt quite warm. The preacher was the Bishop of Norwich. Do you know God's favourite colour? Apparently it is tartan, which blends together all the colours.

After the service we were instructed to leave the Cathedral by the south door, picking up our glasses of wine or juice on the way, and assemble on the lawn outside where trays of canapés were circulating. This was when the rain began. Prudent people put up their umbrellas or took shelter under the trees. The rest of us made our slightly damp way back inside (via the west door) where the talking and feeding continued.

It was a wonderful service, and a great chance to meet up with old friends from other congregations.

The diocesan website has a full report (edinburgh.anglican.org/2026/05/joy-as-new-bishop-of-edinburgh-installed), including the text of the sermon and many photos. Look closely and you may pick out the odd familiar face.

Welcome to Edinburgh, Bishop Dagmar!

The guarding of the God of Life be on you,
The guarding of loving Christ be on you,
The guarding of the Holy Spirit be on you,
To aid and uphold you each day and night of your life.

From the *Carmina Gadelica*, a large collection of prayers and poetry originating in the Scottish Highlands.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As I write, we are three quarters of the way through our financial year, and our income and expenditure are reassuringly close to the budget we set back in September last year.

Income is £3,354 (5%) higher than forecast, thanks largely to congregational giving and kitchen refurbishment donations.

Expenditure is £1,323 (2%) higher than forecast, mainly due to higher than anticipated cleaning costs for the hall.

Overall, we are over £2,000 better off than we expected to be at this time.

Of course, we have some big expenditures to come. The hall kitchen project is now going ahead, and as you read this, work should already be underway to install the kitchen during the school summer holidays. The good news is that the money to pay for this work is now set aside, thanks to all of you who have given so generously. We have also applied for external funding where grants are available. We may not get the grants, but as they say – if you don't ask...

We look forward to the new kitchen being in use by the end of July.

Colin Mair

P.S. Thanks to those who have already moved their Standing Orders to our new bank account; I hope you can assure people it was a fairly straightforward process. Thank you, too, to those who have taken this opportunity to increase their giving.

We knew it would take a while for everything to be moved across, but the new account is now up and running so now is a good time, if you haven't already taken the plunge, to make the change.

Here are the details again. If you need help, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sort Code	83-18-47
Account Number	16084266
Account Name	Church of the Holy Cross

St SALVADOR'S COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE

We have now got into a routine with taking the contents of our white box to St Salvador's; we recently made our fourth trip and as always, our contributions were so warmly received.

The Food Initiative is a non-referral food pantry that operates every Wednesday between midday and 1.30 p.m. When clients arrive they are greeted at the door and given a basics bag with milk, tea, biscuits and toilet roll. They can then choose other items from the fresh produce and dried goods in stock.



Some people are shopping for themselves, others have large families to feed. The common denominator is an income which, despite hard work and careful budgeting, does not meet the rising cost of living.

Pulses, rice, tinned veg/fruit and coconut milk are popular, as are household cleaning items. There are generally large supplies of baked beans and tins of soup in stock.

The Food Initiative also has a café space where people can sit with a coffee and biscuit and always have someone to talk to.

The big white plastic box near the entrance to the church is always there for your donations.

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 to be remembered 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'.

MISSED THE SERMON? WANT TO READ IT AGAIN?

Probably not every sermon makes it to our website – the decision is Janet's – but a few are published there. Visit holycrossedinburgh.org/category/teaching to read those you missed, or those you want to think about further.

STAND, SIT, KNEEL?

Episcopal worship can provide you with a fair bit of exercise!

Those of us reared in the Anglican tradition know the guidelines of ‘stand to sing, sit to listen, kneel to pray’ – only a guide, not rules, as there are exceptions. For example, we stand to hear the Gospel, kneel for communion hymns. Janet is very good at gently guiding us. Some of us were brought up in other traditions and do not find kneeling the natural posture for prayer. This article stems from having to persuade a member of the Parish Church that she could still receive communion on Maundy Thursday even though she can no longer kneel.

Whatever our upbringing, some of us admit (reluctantly) to getting old! Kneeling is no problem, but getting up again is another matter. A long stand can be very tiring. In the end, the answer surely is ‘do what feels right for you’. Far better to sit and concentrate on the service rather than kneel and concentrate on how much our knees hurt.

The important thing is that we are there to worship as part of a Christian community.

God knows whether we are sitting because that is all we are able to do, or because we are lazy. And in the end it isn’t really anybody else’s business!

HALLELUJAH!

The word ‘Hallelujah’ – ‘Praise the Lord’ – is said to have been first sung at the celebration of the building of the Temple at Jerusalem. It was early incorporated in Christian song, and is today one of the few words in use in all Christian tongues.

Jerome remarks, ‘the Christian ploughman shouted it at his work; sailors encouraged each other with it as they plied the oar; soldiers used it as their battle-cry’. It became the recognised Easter salutation and gained a fixed place in the Liturgies, so that when we use it we are bound, as it were, to all ages and all sects, by an endless chain of praise.

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord!

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Saturday 26th September Looking at Paolozzi: The Millennium Window and the Paolozzi Collection at Modern Two

We have arranged for an expert on Eduardo Paolozzi from the National Galleries of Scotland to talk to us about our magnificent Paolozzi window in the Cathedral. We will then head to the Modern Two gallery in Belford Road where we will have lunch (optional) in the café. Afterwards we will be taken on a guided tour of Paolozzi works in the gallery. The gallery is about 20 minutes' walk from the Cathedral, but we will also organise transport for those who need it.

This will be a very special event, and the cost is slightly more than our usual: the gallery is charging us £30 a head for the expert's time, and there is an additional cost if you are joining us for lunch. Please book early. We need 15 participants for the event to be viable.

Email booking/information requests with your details to: friends@cathedral.net or write to: The Secretary, The Friends of St Mary's Cathedral, c/o St Mary's Cathedral Office, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5AW.

Holy Cross is a member of the Friends of St Mary's Cathedral.

MINDFUL WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOPS

Fiona Wilson, a creative wellbeing occupational therapist, writes:

I've been running these workshops on Monday mornings at Ye Olde Inn for two years and on Wednesday afternoons at Cramond Kirk since January, and we have been having a lovely time. These are adult art classes suitable for beginners and experienced painters. Each week we take a moment to reflect on a seasonal, nature and wellbeing theme and do a painting project around the theme to take home. The focus is on painting for relaxation, building confidence and connecting with like-minded people. A lovely group has been coming along to both venues. Get in touch to find out about the late summer/autumn sessions. I like to keep the group small, up to 10–12 people, for a good experience. Workshops can be booked singly or as a block of six, or five weeks at Ye Olde Inn, for a discount. All materials are included.

Book online at www.sandpiperarts.co.uk or email fiona@sandpiperarts.co.uk for a payment link. Facebook [@sandpiperartsedinburgh](https://www.facebook.com/sandpiperartsedinburgh)

REGULAR WORSHIP

Sunday **9.00 a.m.** **Said Eucharist**
 10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist**

Wednesday **9.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Silent 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**

Thursday **7.15 p.m.** **Prayer and a pint** Silent prayer (as Wednesday) in church for about half an hour, followed by social time for those who wish from 8 p.m. in Ye Olde Inn.

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.

KALENDAR and READINGS

July/August 2026

Wednesday 1st July – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Amos 5.14-15,21-24 Psalm 50.7-15 Matthew 8.28-34

Thursday 2nd July – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Friday 3rd July – Thomas, Apostle – *No Healing Eucharist*

**Sunday 5th July – SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –
Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Zechariah 9.9-12 Psalm 145.8-14
 Romans 7.15-25a Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

Wednesday 8th July – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Hosea 10.1-3,7-8,12 Psalm 105.1-7 Matthew 10.1-7

Thursday 9th July – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Friday 10th July – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.

**Sunday 12th July – SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –
Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 55.10-13 Psalm 65.9-13
Romans 8.1-11 Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

Wednesday 15th July – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 10.5-7,13-16 Psalm 94.5-15 Matthew 11.25-27

Thursday 16th July – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

**Sunday 19th July – EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –
Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Wisdom 12.13,16-19 Psalm 86.11-17
Romans 8.12-25 Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

**Wednesday 22nd July – Mary Magdalene – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. –
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Judith 9.1,11-14 Psalm 42.1-7
2 Corinthians 5.14-17 John 20.1-2,11-18

Thursday 23rd July – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Saturday 25th July – James, Apostle

**Sunday 26th July – NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –
Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: 1 Kings 3.5-12 Psalm 119.129-136
Romans 8.26-39 Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Wednesday 29th July – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Jeremiah 15.10,15-21 Psalm 59.1-4,18-20 Matthew 13.44-46

Thursday 30th July – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

**Sunday 2nd August – TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –
Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 55.1-5 Psalm 145.8-9,14-21
Romans 9.1-5 Matthew 14.13-21

**Wednesday 5th August – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. –
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Jeremiah 31.1-7 Psalm 121 Matthew 15.21-28

**Thursday 6th August – The Transfiguration of the Lord – Prayer and a
pint 7.15 p.m.**

Friday 7th August – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.

**Sunday 9th August – ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –
Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: 1 Kings 19.9-18 Psalm 85.8-13
Romans 10.5-15 Matthew 14.22-33

**Wednesday 12th August – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. –
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Ezekiel 9.1-7;10.18-22 Psalm 113 Matthew 18.15-20

Thursday 13th August – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Saturday 15th August – Blessed Virgin Mary

**Sunday 16th August – TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –
Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 56.1,6-8 Psalm 67
Romans 11.1-2a,29-32 Matthew 15.21-28

**Wednesday 19th August – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. –
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Ezekiel 34.1-11 Psalm 23 Matthew 20.1-16a

Thursday 20th August – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

**Sunday 23rd August – THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Isaiah 51.1-6 Psalm 138
Romans 12.1-8 Matthew 16.13-20

Monday 24th August – Bartholomew, Apostle

**Wednesday 26th August – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. –
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: 2 Thessalonians 3.6-10,16-18 Psalm 128 Matthew 23.27-32

Thursday 27th August – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Saturday 29th August – Beheading of John the Baptist

**Sunday 30th August – FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Jeremiah 15.15-21 Psalm 26.1-8
Romans 12.9-21 Matthew 16.21-28

**Wednesday 2nd September – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. –
Eucharist 10.30 a.m.**

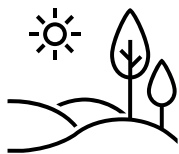
Readings: 1 Corinthians 3.1-9 Psalm 62 Luke 4.38-44

Thursday 3rd September – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Friday 4th September – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.

**Sunday 6th September – FIFTENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.**

Readings: Ezekiel 33.7-11 Psalm 119.33-40
Romans 13.8-14 Matthew 18.15-20



The summer days are come again;
Once more the glad earth yields
Her golden wealth of ripening grain,
And breath of clover fields,
And deepening shade of summer woods,
And glow of summer air,
And winging thoughts and happy moods,
Of love and joy and prayer.

The summer days are come again;
The birds are on the wing;
God's praises, in their loving strain,
Unconsciously they sing.
We know who giveth all the good
That doth our cup o'erbrim;
For summer joy in field and wood,
We lift our song to him.

Samuel Longfellow

