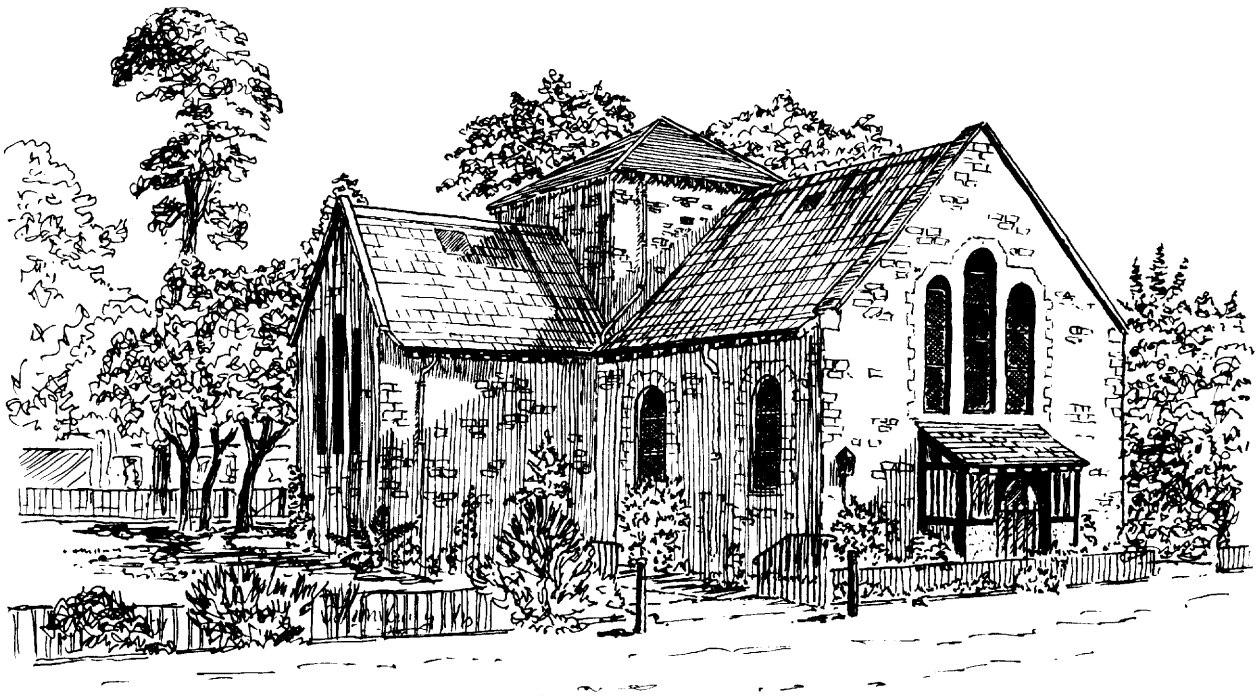


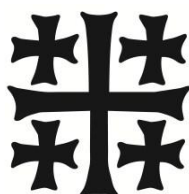
Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS EDINBURGH

NOVEMBER 2026



THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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

Copy date for the December/January magazine is 19th November.
All material should reach the Editor by then.

Website holycrossedinburgh.org

Facebook [@HolyCrossEdinburgh](https://www.facebook.com/HolyCrossEdinburgh) **YouTube** [Holy Cross Church Edinburgh](https://www.youtube.com/HolyCrossChurchEdinburgh)
Instagram [@holycrossedinburgh](https://www.instagram.com/holycrossedinburgh)

Bank account Royal Bank of Scotland Sort code: 83-18-47
Name: Church of the Holy Cross Account number: 16084266

Registered Charity No SC015766

FROM THE RECTOR

As we move through autumn, I find myself stopping frequently when I'm out walking, looking up into the sky, my eyes scanning, working hard to focus on something I know is there, but can't yet see. And then, appearing where they weren't just a moment before, I see the familiar arrowhead shape of a flock of wild geese, making their way to or from feeding grounds, or perhaps on a longer migration flight. It is one of my absolute favourite sounds and sights.

There are many aspects of wild geese that I love; the way they fly, together, in a formation that doesn't allow any one goose to be more than any other (because the lead goose changes all the time) and offers support and protection to those who need it when they need it. I love the wild, untameable nature of the wild geese.

The Christian Church often portrays the Holy Spirit as a dove, perhaps because in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke when the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus at his baptism, we read that it comes in the form of a dove. The dove has become for many a symbol of peace, and of comfort; a soothing presence. But this doesn't encapsulate all of the Holy Spirit.

At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came like the rush of a violent wind, as divided tongues of fire. In contrast to the peaceful dove, this is a disturbing, unpredictable experience. The late Irish poet John O'Donohue wrote, 'I think there is a wonderful danger in God that we have totally forgotten ... a wildness in God ... we are called to make God dangerous again'.

In Celtic Christianity, for people who knew about unpredictable winds and wildness, the metaphor used for the Holy Spirit was not a dove, but a wild goose. This alternative image of the Holy Spirit beckons us towards the wildness of God, pointing us towards life's ultimate questions, to fresh horizons and perceptions, encouraging us to grow into the dynamic world of the Spirit. They call us to be open to an unknown journey in which we can trust God wholeheartedly; the wild goose leads us from the front, protects us from behind, shelters us from all that harms, and is in constant communication with us, helping us to know where our next step, or flap of our wing, could take us.

Ray Simpson, Anglican priest, author, and founder of the international Community of Aidan and Hilda wrote a beautiful prayer to the Holy Spirit, 'Great Spirit, Wild Goose of the Almighty', that comes to mind each time I hear their call, and search for them in the skies above me:

Great Spirit, Wild Goose of the Almighty.
Be my eye in dark places;
Be my flight in trapped places;
Be my host in wild places;
Be my brood in barren places;
Be my formation in the lost places.



A Holy Island Prayer Book: Prayers and Readings from Lindisfarne, by Ray Simpson

So, listen for the call of the wild geese and search the skies above to spot them, and you might just notice something of God as you do so.

With love,

Janet

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8th November

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE 1 p.m.

at the War Memorial on The Green

The parade will assemble in the road beside Holy Cross and move off at 12.50. Anyone not wishing to be in the parade can go straight to The Green. There will be an opportunity to lay wreaths after the roll-call. The ceremony will be led by our Rector, the Revd Janet Spence.

A collect for Remembrance Sunday

O God, whose will it is
to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace:
let the design of your great love
shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows;
and give peace to your Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our homes,
and peace in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.
Amen

SEC Revised Collects for experimental use

ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER
after the 10.30 a.m. service

Please take just a short coffee break so that we can start (and finish) promptly.

Papers for the meeting will be available in church a week or two in advance so that you have time to study them. Please remember to bring them to the meeting. If you want the papers by email please contact the Secretary, Beverley Naidoo, or Margaret Deas (contact details on page 2).

Nomination sheets will be available in church and hall. Advance nominations save time, so think now about possible candidates and get their permission.

The AGM is a business meeting to approve the accounts, receive reports, note appointments and elect Vestry members. It should not take too long, especially if you read the papers beforehand, but **IT IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE ATTEND.**

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

1st	November	Peggy Farrar
8th	November	REMEMBRANCE
15th	November	?
22nd	November	?
29th	November	?



Flower Rota 2026 on the noticeboard still has some spaces. Please sign up for any Sunday when you would like to provide and arrange the flowers. There is a good selection of vases in the vestry. If you would like to donate the flowers but cannot arrange them yourself, please speak to Sarah. She and her team will help if they can but are not always available. To avoid disappointment, consult Sarah before you sign up.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

There are likely to be Advent courses and Christmas events and services apart from the regular Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship.

Details are still to be finalised, including the date of carols in Ye Olde Inn, so **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

TREASURER'S REPORT

As I said last month, I have been focusing on preparing the Annual Report and Accounts for presentation at the AGM on 22nd November 2026. This means I have mainly been thinking about the past year up to 31st August 2026. I'm pleased to say that we have made excellent progress and they have now been completed, and audited and signed off by Kenneth Ramage, our Independent Examiner. I can now relax a wee bit.

A lot has happened in the last month, especially in the church. We have replaced all the old chairs with new (to us) upholstered ones. The change was made with the minimum of fuss. We found a church in Dingwall who were selling chairs and Janet negotiated a good price and arranged for a local firm to deliver them to Edinburgh.

Meanwhile Alan McMahon and Vanessa Hartley advertised and sold the existing chairs. They were in varying states of repair (the chairs, not Alan and Vanessa). Some were in good condition and commanded the highest prices. Others had damaged wickerwork on the seats or needed the struts glued – these ones sold for a lower price dependant on condition. A number of current and former members of the congregation took one or more, perhaps for nostalgic reasons. The church was cleared of old chairs in an incredibly short time, just in time to take delivery of the new ones.

The chairs were paid for by a very generous donation from a member of the congregation and the proceeds from the sale of the old chairs more than covered the removal costs, so we have achieved the change without the need to dip into our reserves.

I think they look splendid and are definitely more comfortable and safer than the old ones.

A huge thanks to everyone who contributed their time, effort and money to make this such a success.

Colin Mair,
Treasurer

DECEMBER/JANUARY MAGAZINE

The next magazine is the December/January double issue. The publication and distribution teams take a Christmas break, so there is no separate January edition. The copy deadline is Thursday 19th November. Please remember to give the Editor information about events in January as well as December.

HOLY CROSS – A FAIRTRADE PLACE OF WORSHIP

At a recent Vestry meeting, it was agreed that Holy Cross Church would register as a member with [Fairtrade.net](https://www.fairtrade.net) as a Fairtrade place of worship. This commits us to using Fairtrade products wherever possible (and at least tea, coffee and sugar) and to raising awareness of Fairtrade and why it matters through our life together, including in our worship.

Why Fairtrade? Whether we are at work or at home, alone or with others, our calling is to do justice, love kindness, and seek God's guidance and will. Loving kindness and doing justice are often linked. When we buy a cup of tea, a new shirt or a chocolate bar, we know there are people behind the products – neighbours who grew, crafted or processed what we buy. God calls us to show them loving kindness, indeed, to love them as we love ourselves. That means we have to care about whether they're being treated justly: Were they paid enough for their work so that they can care for their families and the land they farm? Are they free to respond to their community's needs and to ask for good working conditions? Are they protected from dangerous chemicals and helped to adapt to climate impacts they didn't cause? The Fairtrade label ensures that by buying these products we can confidently answer 'Yes!' to all of these questions.

What is Fairtrade? Fairtrade is a global movement that ensures farmers and workers get a fair deal for the goods they produce leading to improved incomes, rights that protect workers and the environment, and promoting sustainability through ethical trade. **Felix Tetteh, a cocoa farmer in the Asetenapa Cocoa Farming and Marketing Society Union in Ghana is a young Fairtrade ambassador.** He writes: 'When most people think about chocolate, they think about sweetness, celebration, comfort and joy. But behind every chocolate bar is a farmer whose story is often filled with hardship, uncertainty and sacrifice.... Imagine waking up before sunrise. Working under intense heat for long hours. Carrying heavy loads. Caring for your family and your farm throughout the year, and still not earning enough to live with dignity.... The truth

is this: the people who grow cocoa, like myself, are often the ones who benefit the least from chocolate. This is why Fairtrade matters. Fairtrade is not charity. Fairtrade is justice. Fairtrade ensures that farmers receive fairer prices for their cocoa and additional support through premium money invested in projects. Fairtrade also gives farmers a voice. It treats farmers not as invisible workers at the bottom of supply chains, but as human beings with dignity, rights and dreams.... As consumers, you have more power than you think. Sometimes people ask, “Can one person really make a difference?”, and the answer is yes, because change begins with awareness, choices and with compassion.’

There is lots of information about Fairtrade available online, with inspiring stories about lives changed through the justice and dignity they receive when paid fairly for their work and their produce. Have a look at Fairtrade.net and



greenchristian.org.uk for more information. And please support us in being a Fairtrade church by looking out for the Fairtrade logo on goods when you’re doing personal shopping too – most (though not all) supermarkets carry a good range of Fairtrade products. If you can’t find them, ask – and keep on asking. They might cost a little more, but they can change lives – even small changes can make a big difference!

JUST A MOMENT, by Brian Woodcock

It starts with a change
So outwardly insignificant
That no one would notice
Except the person
Behind you in the aisle.

Just a moment
When instead of seeing
Rows of labels
On a supermarket shelf
You imagine the people
Behind them,
Tilling the earth,
Sowing the seed,
Gathering the crops.

And you pause,
Wondering,
What their names are,
Where they live,

What difference it will make
If your hand picks up
This box instead of that.

Wondering: how do I
Love these neighbours?
Can I help change
This child’s long journey for water,
Her mother’s lack of healthcare,
The prospect her father faces
Of another year unable
To feed his family well?

Just a moment.
And the person behind you,
Her impatient baby
Squirming in the trolley,
May never realise
That in that brief hesitation,
A life hung in the balance.

CHRISTMAS MARKET & LIGHTS SWITCH ON SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER

12 noon to 6 p.m.



Local Makers' Market
Santa's Grotto
Children's Arts and Crafts
Hot Food and Drinks
Festive Entertainment



All in and around Holy Cross Church Hall

Admission £2.50 adults (children free)

Buy your wristband in advance from Ye Olde Inn or Turtle Dove Play Café

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON 5.30 p.m. (approx.)

LET D'MAINS SHINE!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 4th November	No services – Rector at Clergy Conference
Sunday 8th November	Remembrance Sunday see page 4
Thursday 19th November	Copy deadline for December/January magazine
Sunday 22nd November	Annual Meeting see page 5
Saturday 28th November	D'Mains Christmas Lights Switch On see above
Sunday 29th November	First Sunday in Advent
Thursday 24th December	Christmas Eve
Friday 25th December	Christmas Day
Friday 5th March	World Day of Prayer

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'.

The lamp is lit this month for Jennie Corse.

MONTHLY MUSIC GIFTS TO ONE ANOTHER

Someone shared a song with me recently, with the message, 'Here's a song for those days when you don't feel too good about yourself ❤️'. It's a song called *Belovedness*, by singer/songwriter Sarah Kroger, and speaks very beautifully of how God loves us. Here are a few lines that really touched me:

It's time to hear what your Father has spoken
It's time to own your belovedness
He says, 'You're mine, I smiled when I made you
I find you beautiful in every way
My love for you is fierce and unending
I'll come to find you, whatever it takes
My beloved.

As I was struck by the power of this song, I realised that we all carry music around with us that brings us more fully alive, helps us to remember God's love, comforts us, or perhaps is beyond words. And then I thought how lovely it would be to share these with one another. So, if you'd like to share a song or piece of music with others at Holy Cross that is precious to you then please send a link, and a wee story about it, and each month we will include one or two. In time it will become a Holy Cross playlist!

And here's a link to *Belovedness* – enjoy!

<https://open.spotify.com/track/60jPMUeHhRfuoO5nw3iGih?si=fhttpMXnQSS2H2dTvCtXjzw&>

Janet

SHOP/DONATE EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS



CHRISTIAN AID CHARITY GIFTS

Like many other charities, Christian Aid produces its catalogue of 'gifts that make the impossible possible'. Charity gifts are virtual – choose and buy gifts for your loved ones. Your donation will support Christian Aid's work globally, enabling an effective response wherever the need is greatest. Your gift will not only connect your own friends and family to communities around the world, it will also help keep hope alive for people in

poverty. Support your global neighbours to build their hopes and achieve their dreams by choosing a meaningful sustainable gift from this year's catalogue.

Each gift is represented by either a physical card, a print-at-home card or an eco-friendly paperless e-card.

Go to caid.org.uk/gifts to find out more and browse the full selection.

Ordering is easy. Simply follow the link, choose, order and pay for your gifts. Online Christmas orders for printed cards should reach Christian Aid by 9th December. If you are planning to send the cards on to others, it would be sensible to allow for the vagaries of Royal Mail and order early.

Other worthy causes are also available. If you shop around you are sure to find interesting virtual gifts from a charity which appeals to you – all without facing the shops.

FRESH START COOKERS FOR CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Everyone deserves a happy Christmas and you can help make it happen.

Replacing or purchasing a cooker after homelessness can be an unaffordable luxury. Fresh Start's Cookers for Christmas Appeal helps provide cookers and other essential white goods such as refrigerators and washing machines so that people can thrive in their new homes.

One man supported by Fresh Start had been living in a hostel for several months. When he finally moved into social housing there were no appliances in the property. He had to rely on a launderette, sometimes going without washing his clothes because it was too expensive. Having access to his own white goods made a huge difference.

The first meal he made was pasta and tomato sauce which might sound very ordinary, but that's the point. He could prepare his own food, wash his clothes and begin living more independently in his new home.

We recently helped an older woman whose cooker no longer worked properly and couldn't be repaired. She had no money to buy a new one and had been refused help through other funds. When we checked in with her afterwards, she spoke about the first meal she had made for her and her neighbour: 'a very nice chicken curry'. These are the small details that stay with us because they show what a difference this service makes to people's lives. Yes, it means being able

to make a meal when you're hungry, but it's also about being able to cook the food you enjoy and share it with your loved ones.

From Fresh Start Newsletter

It's easy to donate:

ONLINE: Visit [Fresh Start's website](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cookers-for-christmas-2026) and donate through JustGiving: www.justgiving.com/campaign/cookers-for-christmas-2026

CHEQUE: Send to Fresh Start (Scotland): The Treasurer, Fresh Start Scotland, 22–24 Ferry Road Drive, Edinburgh EH4 4BR

BANK TRANSFER: Transfer donation to: Sort Code 80-11-05; Account number 00191316; Account name Fresh Start (Scotland). Please use reference 'Cookers 26'.

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

NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday 1st November – ALL SAINTS – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Revelation 7.9-17 Psalm 34.1-10
 I John 3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12

Monday 2nd November – All Souls

Wednesday 4th November – NO SERVICES

Thursday 5th November – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

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

Sunday 8th November – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Wisdom 6.12-16 Psalm 70
 I Thessalonians 4.13-18 Matthew 25.1-13

Wednesday 11th November – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Titus 3.1-7 Psalm 23 Luke 17.11-19

Thursday 12th November – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Sunday 15th November – TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Zephaniah 1.7,12-18 Psalm 90.1-12
 Philippians 4.1-9 Matthew 22.1-14

Monday 16th November – Margaret of Scotland, 1093

Wednesday 18th November – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Revelation 4.1-11 Psalm 150 Luke 19.11-28

Thursday 19th November – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Sunday 22nd November – CHRIST THE KING – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24 Psalm 95.1-7a
 Ephesians 1.15-23 Matthew 25.31-46

Wednesday 25th November – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Revelation 15.1-4 Psalm 98 Luke 21.10-19

Thursday 26th November – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Sunday 29th November – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (start of Year B of the 3-year lectionary) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 64.1-9 Psalm 80.1-7,17-19
 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-37

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

Readings: Isaiah 25.6-9 Psalm 23 Matthew 15.29-39

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

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

Sunday 6th December – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 40.1-11 Psalm 85.1-2,8-13
 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8

