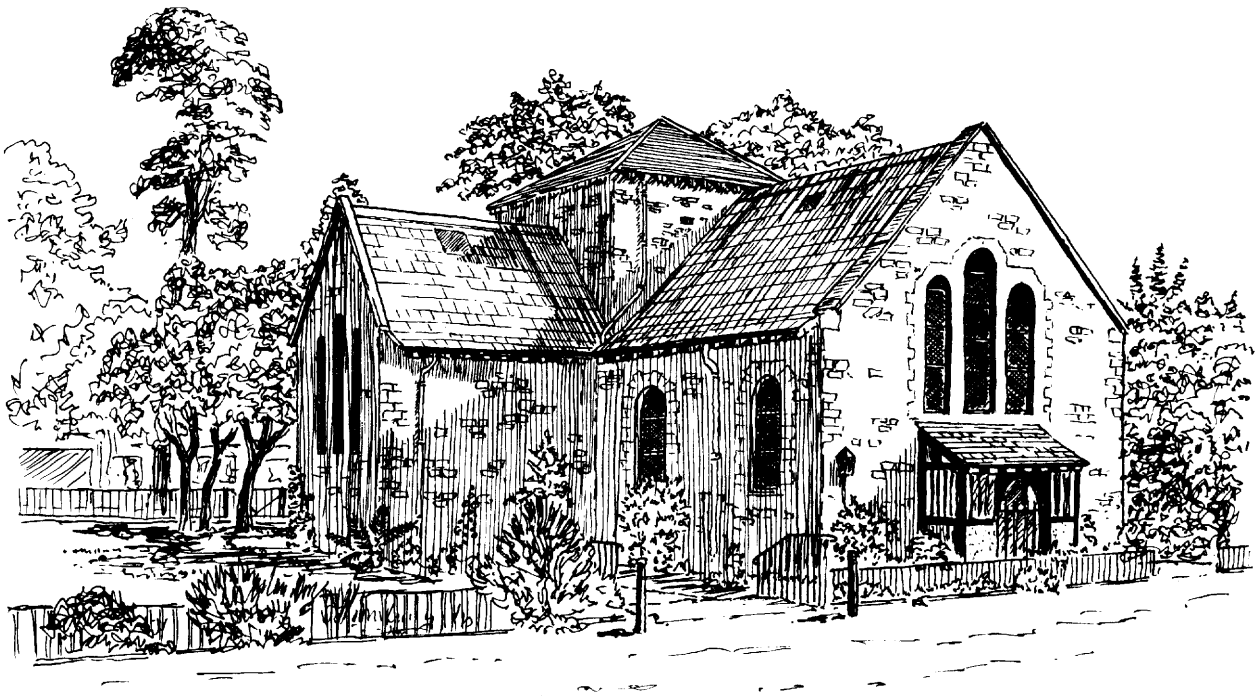


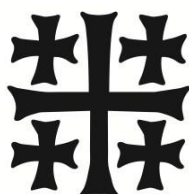
Church of the Holy Cross

DAVIDSON'S MAINS EDINBURGH

OCTOBER 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 margaretanndeas@btinternet.com

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All material should reach the Editor by then.

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FROM THE RECTOR

‘Always on the move; never uprooted.’

The last few weeks have seen change in the world around us as we move from the heat of summer into autumn. The colours, scents, skies, colder nights and the change in the light are all very evocative of the changing season. We might think these changes are all just external, but they affect us (and all creation) in profound ways. There is a powerful expression that I first heard in Taizé: the importance in life of being ‘always on the move, never uprooted’. Sit with it for a bit, reflecting on your life, today and throughout your years, and you may find significant truths within that short phrase.

Growing up and living in the Highlands, the move into autumn was heralded by topics of conversation; ‘The nights are fair drawing in’ was overheard at the bus stop and in shop queues. The log stores were stocked, the crane arrived at the harbour, and a day was spent lifting the boats out of the water in anticipation of the coming storms. We all knew what the coming seasons would bring, and we needed to be ready! ‘Always on the move; never uprooted.’

At Holy Cross, the colour changes in the trees outside will be echoed inside the building this year, as we say goodbye to our well-loved and well-used chairs of over 100 years, and begin to enjoy the comfort, colour and stability of the new (to us) chairs. We will also start using new hymn books which will enable us to continue enjoying our best loved hymns as well as introducing some newer hymns and songs into our repertoire. ‘Always on the move; never uprooted.’

As I wrote last month, change can feel unsettling, but the strings of continuity with our past are much stronger than chairs and hymn books (and Rectors!). The roots of prayer and worship and community in Holy Cross run very deep, and are very strong. These roots enable us, together, to continue to change and grow; to be a community of Christ that is always moving, guided by the Holy Spirit, into the future. ‘Always on the move; never uprooted.’ For which, thanks be to God.

With love,

Janet



HARVEST THANKSGIVING AND LUNCH SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER

Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Decorating the church

Sarah would welcome cash donations (in advance) to the cost. Please consult her about donations in kind or help with decorating.

Harvest Gifts will as usual go to St Salvador's Community Food Initiative (see page 5). Please give a bit extra to celebrate harvest.

Harvest Lunch after the 10.30 service. If you were able to sign up in advance to say you were coming or would bring food, that is all to the good. If not, come anyway. Holy Cross has never yet run out of food.

A Collect for the Season of Creation:

Thanksgiving for Harvest:

God, in whom all things are possible, You crown the year with your goodness and give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, so that none may hunger, none may thirst, and all may cherish the gifts of your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Scottish Episcopal Church

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

4th	October	Ron Gillies – Harvest
11th	October	Jenny Harrison
18th	October	Neville Long
25th	October	?



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, so consult Sarah before you sign up.

ST SALVADOR'S COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVE

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



St Salvador's is a non-referral food pantry, open once a week. The customers – anyone in the local area who is experiencing financial difficulties – receive on arrival a basics bag of milk, tea, biscuits and toilet roll. They can then select other tinned or dry food and household items from the stock, and fresh food provided by the Cyrenians. Some things are always available, others have to be rationed. For example, washing liquid can be obtained once a month and disposable baby nappies are also limited to a small number each week.

The queue starts to build up well before opening time. Tea and biscuits are provided too, making a trip to the food bank something of a social occasion, not to mention a chance to sit in the warm for a while and have someone to talk to. Customers are from a range of backgrounds and do not always have family or friends nearby.

Pulses, rice, tinned vegetables and coconut milk are popular, as are household cleaning items. Think too about the cooking: a meal that requires the use of multiple rings on the hob immediately costs more than something in one pot.

Our gifts are much appreciated when Tricia and others deliver them. Keep them coming! You can find information on how to support the Initiative financially on St Salvador's website at stsalvadors.co.uk/elementor-42773.

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'.

In September the lamp burned for Mandy Padgett and in October it is lit for Neil Harrison.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We completed our financial year on 31st August 2026, and I am now preparing the Annual Report and Accounts for presentation at the AGM on 22nd November 2026.

Easy, you may say, that's a long time ahead; but I first need to complete them so the numbers all add up, and get them audited and signed off by our independent examiner, Kenneth Ramage. When I contacted Kenneth to arrange a timetable, I found that he is on holiday for the last two weeks of September. Recklessly, Sally and I have booked a holiday in the last two weeks of October. That leaves Kenneth and I the first two weeks of October to finalise the accounts so I can get them printed off and circulated in early November before the AGM. As Kenneth said, 'no pressure then'!

Until the accounts have been audited, it would be premature of me to comment in detail on the final position. However, I can give some high-level information.

Our income for 2025/26 exceeded our expenditure by over £2,400, thanks mainly to generous congregational giving and to a large legacy and despite some large items of expenditure,

We spent over £13,500 on installing a new kitchen in the hall – paid for entirely by congregational donations. We also paid £3,870 for the removal of the Rectory shed (which unfortunately had an asbestos roof) and replacement with a new one. We also increased our charitable giving considerably and supported several charities including Pilton Youth & Children's Project, St Salvador's Community Food Initiative, Mary's Meals, The British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Friends of St Mary's Cathedral, The Scottish Churches Trust, Eco-Congregation Scotland and the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

The value of investments also increased significantly over the year, so we move into the next financial year in a good financial position.

You will get a more detailed summary of the year's finances when the finalised Annual Report and Accounts are circulated ahead of the AGM on 22nd November 2026.

Colin Mair,

Treasurer

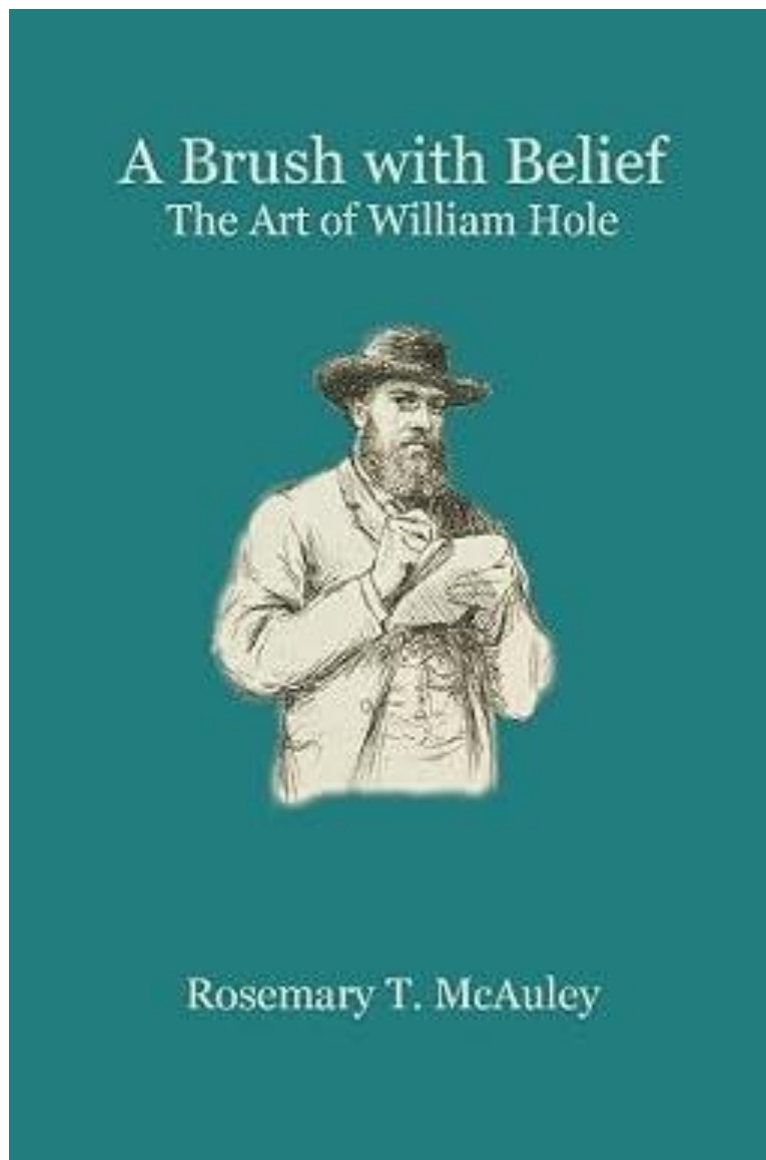
18th September 2026

A BRUSH WITH BELIEF

The art of William Hole RSA (1847–1917)

A major study of the life and belief of the Scottish artist William Hole
by Rosemary T. McAuley

Known for his splendid frieze and murals in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, this volume gives a comprehensive overview of Hole's career with special focus on his religious art which reflected his active Scottish Episcopal faith and the movements within it.



All of us at Holy Cross are familiar with William Hole, whether we realise it or not. The two large paintings in the transepts, *The Entombment of Christ* and *The Risen Christ meeting Mary Magdalene*, which we tend to see without looking, are his work. They were originally in the private chapel of the Douglas-Home family

at the Hirsell, near Coldstream. When the wing containing the chapel was demolished in 1960 the pictures were offered to the Bishop. Two came to us, a third went to Christ Church Falkirk.

The son of a doctor, William Brassey Hole was born in Salisbury but after his father's death moved, aged three, with his Scottish mother to Edinburgh – his home for the rest of his life. He was educated at Edinburgh Academy before beginning an apprenticeship as a civil engineer, but soon moved to art school and became a full-time painter, etcher and engraver. His subjects were mainly historical, Biblical or industrial, and his works range from book illustrations to large-scale pieces.

Hole was a member of St James, Goldenacre, and offered to decorate the interior in his spare time at no cost to the church. It was restored a few years ago and is worth seeing. This led to a commission to decorate the grand staircase of the then new Portrait Gallery at the end of Queen Street. A procession of characters from Scottish history travels up the stairs, and larger spaces are filled with depictions of notable events – definitely a large-scale work. If you go to see it, just be careful not to trip on the stairs as you look at all the detail on the walls. Hole also painted murals for Edinburgh City Chambers.

In about 1900 Hole travelled to Palestine to study and paint the landscape and people. The paintings and drawings from this trip became the 80 watercolours which illustrated his *Life of Jesus of Nazareth*.

Hole died in Edinburgh in 1917 and is buried in the Grange Cemetery.

A Brush with Belief by Rosemary T. McAuley – published 2025 – ISBN 978-1-9187841-03-0

God, who made the earth, declared it good in the beginning,
planned a time and purpose for all things that were and would be.

*While earth remains, there will be seedtime and harvest,
Summer sun and winter moon, the dead of night, the bright day.*

Though humanity defiled the Eden God had cherished,
God did not despise the world; its worth he always could see.

God, in Christ, then came from paradise to imperfection,
repossessing earth and people through a tomb and tree.

Wood though felled to earth produced a flower that will not perish,
seed, though dead and fallen, burst to life and rose up again.

Korean text, source unknown. English version John L Bell



FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

Blackhall St Columba's Church

Friday 30th October 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday 31st October 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sunday 1st November 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

In support of the Tour de 4 cycle event set up by Sir Chris Hoy
In aid of

Prostate Cancer UK
Maggie's

Breast Cancer Now
Cure Leukaemia

MacMillan Cancer Support

REFRESHMENTS

CRAFT DISPLAYS

LIVE MUSIC

Admission free – donations welcome

Wheelchair access

For more information contact Rosemary Kemp at
flowerfestival26@outlook.com

ADVANCE WARNING:

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER after 10.30 service

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

The AGM seems a long way away, but it is not too early to think about nominations for office (and do a bit of gentle arm-twisting if necessary) or to drop heavy hints if you are willing to stand. It needs a team of people to help Holy Cross run smoothly.

Papers for the meeting will be available a week or two in advance so that you have time to study them.

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

October 2026

Thursday 1st October – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Friday 2nd October – Healing Eucharist 2 p.m.

Sunday 4th October – HARVEST THANKSGIVING (Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost) – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Deuteronomy 8.7-18 Psalm 126
Philippians 4.4-9 Matthew 6.25-33

Wednesday 7th October – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Galatians 2.1-2,7-14 Psalm 117 Luke 11.1-4

Thursday 8th October – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Sunday 11th October – TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 25.1-9 Psalm 23
Philippians 4.1-9 Matthew 22.1-14

Wednesday 14th October – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Galatians 5.16-25 Psalm 1 Luke 11.42-46

Thursday 15th October – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Sunday 18th October – TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 45.1-7 Psalm 96.1-9
1 Thessalonians 1.1-10 Matthew 22.15-22

Monday 19th October (trans. from 18th) – Luke, Evangelist

Wednesday 21st October – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Ephesians 3.4-12 Psalm 113 Luke 12.39-48

Thursday 22nd October – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

Friday 23rd October – James of Jerusalem, Martyr, c62

Sunday 25th October – TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Eucharist 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Leviticus 19.1-2,15-18 Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2.1-8 Matthew 22.34-46

Wednesday 28th October – Simon and Jude, Apostles – Silent Prayer 9.30 a.m. – Eucharist 10.30 a.m.

Readings: Deuteronomy 32.1-4 Psalm 119.89-96
Ephesians 2.13-22 John 15.17-27

Thursday 29th October – Prayer and a pint 7.15 p.m.

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

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

