

CRUCIS

Magazine of St. Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church Dundee

April 2014

"Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of Christ,
by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world." Galatians 6:14

In the Beginning...

"Keep your eyes on the Cross!" This is the advice often given by clergy to brides preparing to make their grand entrance at their wedding service. It helps the bride both to keep her eyes up and to focus her attention on the wonderful thing that is about to happen in front of the church sanctuary, where the Cross is.

"Keep your eyes on the Cross!" It is a good watchword for Passiontide and Holy Week. The Cross is both its theme and climax. All that we relive with Our Lord during those two weeks prior to Easter has His Cross as its focus. Everything is moving toward it with Him. His eyes were fixed on the Cross, and we who would travel with Him during this holy time must also have the same focus, however harrowing. Terrible things lie ahead, and we who love Our Lord must persevere as He persevered, toward the suffering that lay ahead of Him.

"Keep your eyes on the Cross!" Easter joy is by no means diminished by looking toward Our Lord's point of suffering. It is



also His point of victory over sin and death on our behalf. The Cross without Easter is a depressing and sad story; Easter without the Cross suggests an easy triumph and cheap grace. Christ "entered not into glory before he was crucified" was how the old Prayer Book put it. Even in Eastertide the Cross has its place. That place, of course, is *behind* us.

Whereas in Passiontide and Holy Week the Cross stands before us, in Eastertide it is behind us. In Passiontide and Holy Week, we look forward, as Our Lord looked forward. In Eastertide, we glance behind us. The future is ours with Jesus. Wonderful things are about to happen.

"Keep your eyes on the Cross!"

Wishing you all the joy of Easter,
Fr. Clive

Report on the Diocesan Synod held on Sat., March 1st 2014

The annual diocesan synod for 2014 was held at the Chalmers-Ardler church, a venue chosen because of its accessibility, and began with the Synod Eucharist. Bishop Nigel spoke in his homily about the Kingdom of God as described by Jesus in the gospel reading and Kingdom living became a theme for the rest of synod. The morning session dealt with the usual business incumbent upon synod members, including passing the budget for the coming year and the annual quota required from each congregation. Information was provided to show how the quota is spent and as a diocese we receive more from central funding than we pay in. Mr Malcolm Betts brought greetings from the General Synod Office and spoke about GSO literature that was available and about vacancies on provincial Boards. He commended our diocese on the way in which all the necessary figures had been returned to GSO in good time.

After lunch there were three presentations to synod members.

The first was from The Rev Kerry Dixon about the plans for St Luke's Downfield to become a Church Army Centre of Mission. It is hoped that a second Church Army evangelist will be able to join the team working out of St Luke's Downfield to support the existing congregation and church plant and to go out and develop 'church' among people with no church connections. This may result in expressions of church outwith traditional church buildings and settings and provide new opportunities to tell people that "Jesus is amazing and can transform your life". The Church Army is investing in our diocese through this project.

The second was from the Dean concerning same sex relationships and the SEC. He acknowledged that this is a difficult issue for all denominations and the SEC is seeking to find a process which will allow discussion of sensitive issues surrounding belief, theology and identity. The hope is to find a model which will enable conversations to happen which will then allow listening to take place across the spec-

trum. It is hoped that conversation rather than debate will recognise and respect differences so that Christians can speak and listen to each other as part of Kingdom living. There is to be a provincial conference in April to start looking at a process for these conversations and Bp Nigel will be involved along with delegates from our diocese.

The third presentation was from The Provost concerning the planned redevelopment of St Pauls Cathedral. Structural, Fabric and Service surveys have been done on the Cathedral plant resulting in a £3 to £5 million vision to achieve a cathedral fit for the 21st century.

"Vision 2020?" sets out plans to do all the necessary work to upgrade the properties and to make the Cathedral an inspiring place of worship and a place that serves the local community in many different ways. One of the most important aspects of the vision is to make the buildings accessible to everyone because currently it is felt that our cathedral is the most inaccessible in Britain. The excellent power point presentation showed not only what needed to be done but what could be achieved in the years ahead.

In his charge to synod Bishop Nigel informed us of the vacancies in the diocese and the current difficulty of finding suitable candidates to fill them, which is a problem shared across the SEC. He supported the new developments at St Luke's, Downfield and encouraged us to re-imagine what future church might look like. He told us that vestries need to look outwards and that focussed and intentional leadership was required across the diocese. He commended the Dean's presentation and explained that a framework to consider same sex relationships in the SEC would emphasise theological reflection and listening. On the question of the referendum Bp Nigel said that as a church we remain agnostic on this matter but that we should be encouraging people to become engaged with the process and to vote. He ended with a call for us all "to be a faithful family and pull together to discern Kingdom strategy and bring out treasures new and old" relating this to Jesus' parables about the Kingdom of God.

K. Clapson, Lay Representative



Come Celebrate!

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Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor, Teacher, Martyr (9 April)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born in 1906 into an academic family. Ordained in the Lutheran Church, he became a pastor and lecturer: in Spain, in London, the USA and, in 1931, back in Berlin. Opposed to the growing Nazi influence in Church and State, he was one of the leaders of the Confessing Church, a movement that challenged the Nazi-dominated established church from 1934. Bonhoeffer headed its seminary for the training of orthodox clergy, until its closure by the authorities in 1937. Banned from teaching, and harassed by Hitler's regime, he bravely returned to Germany at the outbreak of war in 1939, despite being on a lecture tour of the USA at the time. His continuing opposition to the Nazis led to his arrest in 1943. His experiences led him to propose a more radical theology in his later works, which have been influential among post-war theologians. He was executed in Flossenburg concentration camp on this day in 1945.

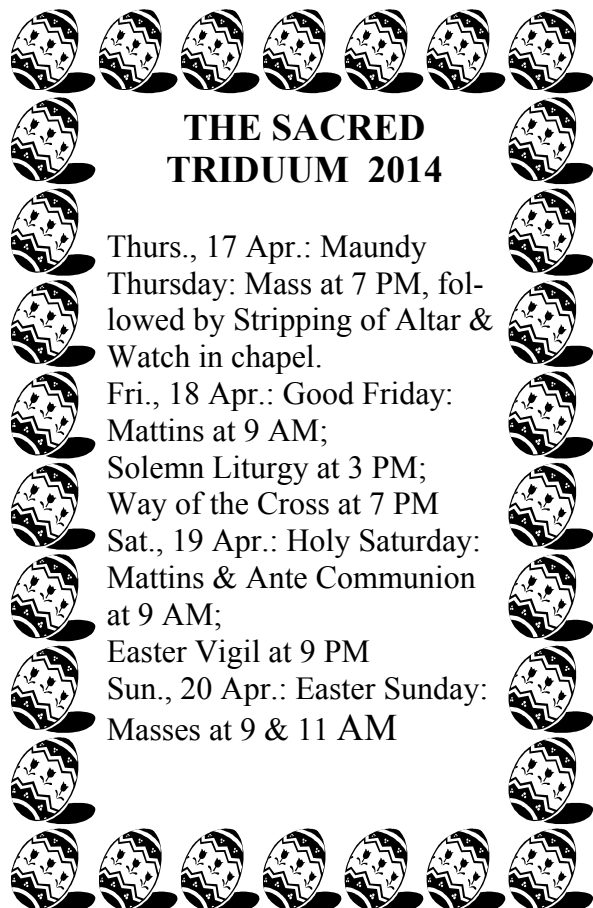
St Mark, Evangelist (28 April, transferred from 25 April)

Mark went with St Paul on his first missionary journey, along with his cousin

Barnabas. He made later journeys with Barnabas alone. He was in Rome with Paul, and with St Peter. His Gospel is believed to be based on Peter's teaching in Rome: its concise, direct and vivid style tells us something of Mark's personality. Tradition dating from the third century says that he founded the Church in Alexandria.

St Catherine of Siena, Mystic and Teacher (29 April)

Born at Siena in the year 1347, Catherine became a member of the Order of St, Dominic. She was filled with active love for God and neighbour: she strove to bring peace to the quarrelling factions and cities of Italy, and to restore the rights of the papacy, at that time in exile in Avignon. She was a contemplative and ascetic, and her many writings are remarkable for their spirituality and theology. Catherine died in the year 1380.



THE SACRED TRIDUUM 2014

Thurs., 17 Apr.: Maundy Thursday: Mass at 7 PM, followed by Stripping of Altar & Watch in chapel.

Fri., 18 Apr.: Good Friday: Mattins at 9 AM; Solemn Liturgy at 3 PM; Way of the Cross at 7 PM

Sat., 19 Apr.: Holy Saturday: Mattins & Ante Communion at 9 AM; Easter Vigil at 9 PM

Sun., 20 Apr.: Easter Sunday: Masses at 9 & 11 AM

**A Sermon
preached by the Rector
on the Third Sunday in Lent
23 March, 2014**

“From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded.” Exodus 17: 1a

The wilderness of Sin – or Zin, as it is sometimes called – is an actual geographical place, somewhere in the Sinai. No-one is sure exactly where it is. After crossing the Red Sea, we are told that God led the Israelites under Moses into a desert area toward Mount Sinai. It was called the wilderness of Sin and was in the region of the Sinai desert through which they had to pass on their way to the Holy Mountain.

The wilderness of Sin is a geographical reality; sin itself is a theological reality. And it too is a wilderness.

Sin separates us from God. It takes God out of our lives. As sinners, we try to make a go of it alone. Soon we learn one very important thing: when God is absent from our lives, we find ourselves lost, in a place that cannot sustain life: a wilderness. Thirsty and hungry, we cram our existence full of stuff that can never truly satisfy us, and we remain dry and famished. The wilderness is a place of death.

Only God has the life-giving water and food to sustain our passage through the wilderness of human sin. To cut ourselves off from God’s life-supporting supplies means spiritual death. To accept God’s provision for us gives us life that is neither empty nor unfulfilled. – the perfect life with Him that God always intended us to have. But sin makes us crazy with hunger and thirst. We don’t see the truth, and instead we chase a desert mirage of human contentment. We do not turn to God. We want to keep what’s left of our lives to ourselves. It’s Adam and Eve’s basic sin: to live without God. The

sad result is something less than full life. Sin has ravaged all of us in some way. We have to deal with its effects on our lives every day. We are all of us on a journey through the wilderness of sin, all of us vulnerable, and some of us dying of spiritual thirst or hunger. If we want to live, we need to turn to God. We do this by gathering together in the Church that is God’s gift to us in Jesus Christ. It is where we can be healed and sustained. And the Church of God is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints.

The reading from Exodus refers to Moses’ people as “the congregation of the Israelites”. A congregation is a gathering together of a wide assortment of people. Often they have very little connection with each other except their commitment to their leader and their common enterprise. A church congregation too is a gathering of people very unlike each other. Our Leader is Jesus Christ and our enterprise is the Gospel of God. Christ and the Gospel is what brings us together, holds us together, and undergirds all that we do together. We do not stay together because we like each other, but because we are committed to each other for the sake of Christ and the Gospel on this journey that we are taking with Him. We need Him, and we need each other, if we are going to make it through this wilderness of sin.

Exodus tells us that “the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded”. We are all of us at different stages on this journey. Some of us have been travelling a very long time. Even as we struggle ourselves, we may know what it takes to survive. Some of us have only just started the journey. We may be enthusiastic, but highly vulnerable. We need the help of our companions on this journey

if we are going to make it through the wilderness of sin. The Church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints. Some of us are in A & E, some of us on the wards, and others are out patients. Even though we may all be at different stages, we are all on the same journey. And not one of us is invulnerable to the dangers along the way. Sin is dangerous. It is life-denying. We all need to be cared for. We all need life-saving treatment.

God had not promised the congregation of the Israelites – and He does not promise us – an easy passage. What He has promised is true life and freedom with Him. There are many stages that all of us must pass through on this difficult journey. But God is leading us. If we rely on Him and on each other in this hospital for sinners that God has given us, we shall prevail. In the Church we are all in God's NHS: God's Numinous Hospital for Sinners.

"Numinous" is a word used to describe the feelings of awe, wonder and sense of sin that human beings have in the presence of God. In this hospital for sinners we call "the Church", God comes to us and we experience the numinous. We see His glory, and by His presence we are given healing, sustenance and life.

Sometimes, however, we come unprepared to meet God here. We focus on the non-essentials. At times, we actually misbehave. What we need is more understanding of God and each other and a lot more reverence and mutual respect. Disrespect and thoughtlessness can cause real casualties among us as we journey. Every one of us is vulnerable to, and perhaps badly hurt by, the ravages of sin. This is not a museum and none of us is an exhibit of perfect sanctity yet. In God's NHS we need to be more attentive towards God and the needs of others and less concerned about ourselves. Otherwise, none of us may ever get out of this wilderness of sin fully alive.



The 2014 World Day of Prayer Service

The World Day of Prayer service for our area was held at Coldside Parish Church on Friday Mar 1st. We were all given a warm welcome to the church by Andrew Kimmitts who led the service, written by the Christian women of Egypt based around the theme of 'streams in the desert'. Those participating in the service represented a number of local churches and about 30 people from these congregations were present.

The Rev Tony Thornthwaite, minister of the Church gave the address where he focussed on the story of the finding of Moses by Pharaoh's daughter. He suggested that this story should encourage us to work and plan for God's will to be done, all the while "praying like billyo". Through the service we were reminded of the great history of Egypt, its connections to the Bible in both Old and New Testaments, its importance to the Christian Church and how there have been recent changes in the country. The image of water flowed through our readings and prayers: the waters of the Nile giving life to the country and the living water given by Jesus to His people as illustrated by the gospel story of the woman at the well. After the service we all enjoyed refreshments and fellowship.

Next year it is the turn of St Salvador's to host the WDP so make a note for your 2015 diaries to come on Fri Mar 6th to join in the service written by the Christian women of the Bahamas and to share fellowship with our ecumenical neighbours.

Vestry Report

The Vestry met in March and discussed the following items

- The Maxwell Centre's continuing development of the church garden and yard
 - Completion of repairs to prevent further leakage in the Lady Chapel
 - Work on the Club 83 roof
 - Our boiler/heating situation
 - Ways to maximise income from our buildings
 - Installation of a CCTV camera on the front of the hall wall....can you spot it?
 - Progress towards an organist to play for us twice a month
 - Our Lenten observances
 - Volunteers, some from our Sunday afternoon programme, helping to clean the church and do minor repairs
 - Replacement of the gate to the side of the Lower Hall by Martin and Roman
 - The appointment of Dr Jennie Parkinson as our new PVG Officer
 - The Lay Rep's report from the Diocesan Synod (see elsewhere in this edition of the magazine)
 - A safeguarding review of our Sunday afternoon work (now that numbers attending have increased so much) to ensure the safety of everyone involved, as requested by Bishop Nigel
 - Feedback from Gordon Sharp, head of Faith in Community Dundee about our food cupboard ministry which indicates how much what we do is appreciated by those who come and how well regarded it is in the local neighbourhood by community workers.
 - The continuing work on changes needed for our Constitution
 - Calling an SGM to vote on the changes to the Constitution
- Ways to keep noise and moving about to a minimum during our services to reduce the distractions to our worship

Katie Clapson, Vestry Secretary



New PVG Officer Announced

The protection of vulnerable groups (PVG) is an increasingly important role in all churches and voluntary groups. For many years, this job has been done by Muriel McKelvie. The Vestry is grateful to Muriel for her service in that capacity, and is glad to announce the appointment of Dr. Jennie Parkinson as our new PVG Officer.

Donations for flowers for Easter would be especially welcome. Please see the Rector if you would like to contribute.

Holy Trinity Monifieth has been providing much-appreciated support for our Food Cupboard for some time, usually delivered to the Rectory by Mr. Ron Wilson-Hunter. When Ron and his wife recently celebrated their wedding anniversary, they asked their guests to contribute to the Food Cupboard in lieu of presents. This resulted in a wind-fall for St. Salvador's, for which we are very thankful!

W5: Who, What, When, Where, Why

"Holy Week" is the week immediately before Easter Day. The earliest reference to the week being marked by special devotion comes from a document originating in the 3rd century. The earliest description of the special services of Holy Week comes from a 4th century document called *The Pilgrimage of Egeria*.

"Easter Week" is the week immediately following Easter Day. In the Orthodox East, it is called "Bright Week". Liturgically, each day is a kind of "mini Easter", celebrated with great joy.

"Holy Week" is being erroneously referred to as "Easter Week" in the media and even by Christians nowadays—who should know better!

Kalendar

Sun., 6 Apr.: Lent 5: Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM

Tues., 8 Apr.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 9 Apr.: D. Bonhoeffer:
Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 13 Apr.: Palm Sunday: Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM

Mon., 14 Apr.: Mon. in Holy Week:
Mass at 7 PM

Tues., 15 Apr.: Tues. in Holy Week:
Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 16 Apr.: Wed. in Holy Week: Mass at 10 AM; Tenebrae at 7 PM

Thurs., 17 Apr.: Maundy Thursday: Mass at 7 PM, followed by Stripping of Altar & Watch in chapel.

Fri., 18 Apr.: Good Friday: Mattins at 9 AM; Liturgy at 3 PM; Stations of the Cross at 7 PM

Sat., 19 Apr.: Holy Saturday: Mattins & Ante Communion at 9 AM; Easter Vigil at 9 PM

Sun., 20 Apr.: Easter Sunday:
Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM

Mon., 21 Apr.: Easter Monday:
Mass at Noon

Tues., 22 Apr.: Easter Tuesday:
Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 23 Apr.: Easter Wednesday:
Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 27 Apr.: Easter 2: Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM

Mon., 28 Apr.: St. Mark: Mass at Noon

Tues., 29 Apr.: St. Catherine of Siena:
Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 30 Apr.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Thurs., 1 Mat: Ss. Philip and James:
Mass at 7 PM

Sun., 4 May: Easter 3: Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM

Tues., 6 May: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 7 May: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 11 May: Easter 4: Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM

Tues., 13 May: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 14 May: St. Matthias: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 18 May: Easter 5: Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM

Tues., 20 May: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 21 May: St. Helena: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 25 May: Easter 6: Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM

Tues., 27 May: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 28 May: St. Helena: Mass at 10 AM

Thurs., 29 May: THE ASCENSION:
Mass at 7 PM

Sat., 31 May: The Visitation: Mass at 11 AM

The deadline for the May issue of 'Crucis' is Sunday, 27 April Please send any material to the Editor (the Rector) by that day. Thank you!

We are delighted to announce the appointment, made possible by a grant from the Paul Harvie Trust, of our new organist, Mr. Chris Bragg. It is anticipated that Chris, who lives in Cupar and works at St. Andrews, will play for us on two Sundays every month and on special occasions.

Many thanks to Muriel McKelvie for contributing this year's Paschal Candle in memory of loved ones.

Diocesan Website:
www.brechin.anglican.org

A BIG "thank you" to those who have contributed to our ministry through Gifts in Kind and the Lenten tubes during the season of Lent.

St Salvador's Directory

Web: www.stsalvadors.com Registered Charity SC010596 **E-mail:** enquiries@stsalvadors.com

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Saint Salvador's is a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) and is in the Diocese of Brechin.
The SEC is part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

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Magazine

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