

CRUCIS

Magazine of St. Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church Dundee

August 2015

"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...

Turning sixty in January has proved to be a turning-point birthday in a way that others were reputed to be and were not. I feel different. Perhaps with visiting my infant granddaughter a month ago, and with my own firstborn's impending wedding in about three months' time, I'm feeling my age. Everything seems to require a little bit more energy, a bit more effort. And the world around me seems increasingly more strange, even alien.

Those of you who are "baby boomers" like me, or who are aficionados of modern cultural history, will recall a hugely popular album decades ago by Don Maclean entitled "American Pie". On it there was a short, simple round based on Psalm 137:1: "By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept for thee, Zion". It has a simple, haunting melody that stays with you, full of tones of sadness and regret.

The whole of Psalm 137 is like that. It is the cry of the defeated, the lament of the exile. Despite his captivity, and having seen the brutal destruction of his home and loved

ones, he is called upon to entertain his masters with "one of the songs of Sion". The Psalmist asks (v.4): "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?"

Old man that I am becoming, I feel like that sometimes. As a Christian I should have felt like that long since.

The Psalmist's question is the essential challenge of being a Christian in any age and time, but it seems like a particularly pointed question in our time. What we Christians are called to bring to our cultural masters' party is merely entertainment, only "one of the songs of Sion". To sing "the LORD'S song" is often met with embarrassment and puts us outside the camp.

Increasingly, we Christians seem to be "strangers and exiles" on the earth. But that is what we have always been called to be. Our calling does not permit us to slot easily into the time and place where we live. Ours is intended to be a counter culture. Ours is the Lord's song. Here at St. Salvador's we have a rich counter culture for those who choose to immerse their lives in it.

We can bewail our being out of step with the world. We can always "hang up our harps". However, "how shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land" should not be a sigh of despair for the Christian; it is a reminder of who we are and what we are called to do.

With every blessing,
Fr. Clive

Clifford Albert Jones RIP

*Homily given by the Rev. Preb. William S. Scott
CVO on 30th June 2015 at a Requiem Mass at All
Saints' Margaret Street, London for The Rev. Clif-
ford Albert Jones*

Fr Clifford was my very oldest friend and has known me since I was fourteen. I first encountered him when exploring the possibility of being organist at St Salvador's, Dundee and the first words he spoke were, "You may not get up the organ loft stairs because you are too large!" I was much thinner then than I am now.

We are engaged together in this Requiem Mass – the way that we remember those who have gone before us, because their lives are intertwined with the life of Christ. In the Mass we express our communion with the departed. We offer to the Father in the Holy Spirit the sacrifice of the death and Resurrection of Christ. We ask Him to purify his priest Clifford of his sins and their consequences and to admit him to the fullness of the heavenly banquet which we but glimpse in this sacramental celebration. It is at the Altar that we learn to live in communion with our loved ones whom we have laid to rest by communicating in the Body of Christ of which Fr Clifford is a member and then by praying for him and with him.

I find it rather strange and difficult to know what to say about Fr Clifford because he was such a mixture of a person – on one level very naughty and flawed and on another extremely holy and godly and fun.

He was brought up in Birkenhead on the Mersey, one of six – at least that's all I can think of – children. His father died at a young age and his mother married again to a man who proved to be a cruel stepfather. His sisters and Clifford therefore left home as soon as they possibly could and got work, this meaning that their education was curtailed, which was very sad because they were all really very bright. After a while the war began and Clifford joined the RAF where he worked in signals and spent a lot of the war in India which he loved and where he made many friends. On leaving the RAF he joined the Society of St Francis and worked as a friar mainly in the East End. His work among prostitutes and sailors was apparently legen-

dary although I remember a friar to whom I spoke about Clifford said he was, *a rather fiery little man!!* Those who knew him as well as I did were indeed very aware of the short fuse.

The vocation to be a priest grew very strong and when he left he had stayed with SSF longer than anyone who had left without breaking any vows.

To Scotland he went to go to theological college and to be ordained – hence my connection. At College he won all the prizes because he was very determined to do well. Because of his background, proving himself had become a dominant trait in his character.

When I first knew him he had become the Rector of St Salvador's Dundee which was a very fine Bodley Church in the midst of the slums of that city. He was, of course a brilliant parish priest, not only being faithful at the Altar and in the confessional, but raising vast sums of money to restore the building. By that time he had married Lynn and they had two children Clare and Nicolas. It was tragic for him when Lynn died in 1968 and rather tragic for the children who lost a devoted mother and were left with a father whose main interest was in his parish. They have, however, turned out remarkably well and have been very attentive to him in his latter years.

Illness meant that he needed a lighter job and the wonderful Jock Henderson, Bishop of Bath and Wells appointed him to Bradford on Tone near Taunton and then on to St John's Bridgwater and Timsbury near Bath before he retired in 1985. Retirement did not stop him working and he had several retirement ministries, not least here, but made himself very useful and was a great help to a number of individuals. In the last few years dementia had set in and he was wonderfully looked after in the Clergy home in Hindhead. I am grateful to him for saying to me before I was instituted to my first living, "All you have to do is to say your prayers and love your people." I have tried to remember that although have no doubt fallen short in the department of loving my people!

Here I must stop talking about him because he was very opposed to eulogies and thought that funerals and memorial services should be about God. When I visited him on Easter Monday last he was obviously getting very close to dying



and kept pointing upwards and saying that God was all that matters “Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s”, he repeated over and over. The next time I saw him he was completely out of it and slept during my entire visit.

What awaits us beyond death? is a question that we all face. At the end stripped down to the solitary self is it NOTHING which awaits us? The faith which Fr Clifford believed and taught is very clear. It is not Nothing that awaits us, but the Father, our Father. So while death is a separation it is also a homecoming. The resurrection of Jesus is a pledge to us, a guarantee from God, signed and sealed that just as he raised Jesus, so he will raise us also and bring us into his presence. Paul says, *So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.* (2 Cor. 4: 16–18) The Christian faith does not help us to escape death, does not preserve us from the struggles of being human, but it assures us that, at the final point of human weakness and defeat, at the moment we are utterly brought to naught, we meet God and are raised by him. I would like Mother Julian of Norwich to have the last word:

Although our Lord God is with us and dwells in us, holding and enfolding us in tender love, never to leave us; and although he is nearer to us than tongue can tell or heart can think - even so we shall never cease from sighs nor tears, nor yet from yearning, till we come to see clearly his most blessed face. In that sight no grief can live, no blessing fail.

So we pray that Clifford may come to see clearly the face of the Lord whom he tried to serve in this life. May he rest in peace.

Born 26 September 1920, brought up Birk-
enhead, one of 6 children

RAF during World War II

1946 joined Society of St Francis & worked
as a friar in the East End of London

Edinburgh Theological College

Ordained Deacon: 1956

Priested: 1957 Brechin

Assistant Curate: St Salvador, Dundee 1956
–1958

Married: 4 July 1956 (Miss Lynn Nichols)

Daughter: Hilary Clare, born 1957 (Now the
Rev. Canon Hilary Clare Sanders)

Son: Nicolas John, born 1960

Assistant Curate: St Swithin, Lincoln 1958–
1959

Assistant Curate: St Wulfram, Grantham,
Lincs 1959–1960

Rector: St Salvador, Dundee 1960–1969
(wife Lynn died 1968)

Vicar: Bradford on Tone, Somerset 1969–
1974

Rector: Bridgwater St John with Chedzoy,
Diocese of Bath & Wells 1974–1980

Priest-in-charge Timsbury 1980–1985

Rector Timsbury and Priston 1985 (Retired
1985)

Priest-in-charge: St George, Tombland, Dio-
cese of Norwich 1986–1990

Honorary Assistant Priest: All Saints’ Mar-
garet Street 1990–1994

Honorary Assistant Chaplain All Hallows
Convent, Ditchingham 1994–1997

Moved to flat in Paddington Green (Little
Venice), London 1997–2008

Moved to Woodbridge, Suffolk (to be near
daughter Clare) 2008–2012

Moved to Manorhead Clergy Home, Hind-
head 2012

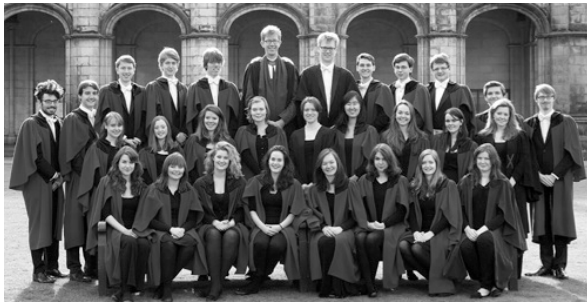
Died Friday 15 May 2015 (94 years old)

Funeral 12 noon Tuesday, 26 May 2015 in

Grundisburgh, nr Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Requiem Mass at St Salvador, Dundee 11.00
a.m. Saturday, 6 June 2015

Requiem Mass at All Saints’ Margaret Street
6.30 p.m. Tuesday, 30 June 2015



Magical Music at St Salvador's

St Salvador's was honoured to host the first recording to be made by the choir of St Salvador's Chapel in St Andrews since the launch of its new recording label. Our fine organ and the splendid acoustic of the church inspired our organist Chris Bragg to facilitate this happy venture and we are grateful to him for this.

It was a highly and precisely organised undertaking which started off with the delivery of a lovely little chamber organ with Willie its own attendant tuner, who was ever present to ensure perfectly accurate pitch. Adrian, a very musical sound engineer from Oxford, set up a formidable complex of recording apparatus in the choir vestry, and Tom Wilkinson conducted and polished a group of nearly thirty enthusiastic and greatly talented students from St Andrews University. In addition to the chamber organ a small orchestra of strings and woodwind had been assembled from the well established Fitzwilliam quartet and a newer group which is *Ars Eloquentiae*. Both are more used to gracing London concert venues, and it has been some time since I have heard such beautiful string playing.

The equipment having been installed, the students arrived in their bus and the hard work commenced. It was fascinating to watch this very professional assembly at work and to listen as the music, which already sounded pretty good, gradually became perfect as they worked through section by section until a satisfactory take was achieved. Adrian and Tom combined forces to get the best from their musicians, and nothing less than their best was accepted. The main pieces to be recorded were the uplifting Creed from Bach's Mass in B minor, and two sections from the Palestrina Missa Sine Nomine. Moments in this latter work were so exquisitely beautiful as they floated ethereally across the nave of St Salvador's that they brought a tear to the eye.

Maxwell Centre generously allowed the group free use of the hall and facilities so that the students could relax and thaw out between the periods of intense concentration. The sensitivity of the organ tuning meant that we could have no heating on in church despite the unseasonal nip in the air. It was really good to be able to work with Maxwell on this venture and they had apparently enjoyed all the bustle and activity! Martin and I sat as quiet as mice at the back of the church to mind the doors, and were thankful for an absence of street noise to hinder the proceedings.

The highlight of our few days was a concert on Friday evening, when a well constructed and varied programme showed to great effect the talents of the choir, this time accompanied by our own organ. The students transformed themselves, appearing in smart academic dress and the resplendent red gowns which I remember well from my own days at St Andrews University. They sang a varied programme of British choral music and Scots folk songs dating from the C16 to the present day. They started in sombre and solemn vein with two beautiful pieces of polyphony, extracts from Victoria's Requiem. It was interesting to hear what a fine pure sound could be made by a relatively large group of vocalists. The two contemporary pieces which followed were composed by members of the choir for a Remembrance Day concert and provided a gentle contrast. Fiona Yelland's 'There is a field' set moving words by Rumi, a C13 Persian mystic: 'Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing, And rightdoing there is a field, I'll meet you there.' Jonathan McNaul's 'Blessed are the Peacemakers' continued the theme of pursuing peace rather than conflict. This was profound music from the young singer/composers. One time organist at Westminster Abbey, Douglas Guest gave us 'They shall not grow old' and James Mac Millan's A Child's Prayer was perhaps more familiar, but evocative nevertheless. Back then to the C16 and Adrian Batten's 'O Sing Joyfully' and some familiar William Byrd including an elegant rendition of the Ave Verum Corpus.

After a short interval we moved back to more recent centuries with a choral by Brahms skilfully played and finely registered by Alasdair Grant, an organ scholar with skills beyond his years. His enthusiasm for our fine tracker organ

was clear. The choir mirrored this with 'How Lovely are Thy Dwelling Places' from the German Requiem, and Stanford's Justorum animae proved an interesting counterpart to the Byrd version in the first half of the concert. After an 'Evening Song' by Rheinberger came one of my favourite late Victorian anthems, 'Te lucis ante terminum' by Balfour Gardiner, sung with poise and delicacy. The mood then lightened with three Shakespearean songs by Vaughn Williams, full of contrast and musical colour. A fitting Scottish finale in response, with 'Loch Lomond' and 'Alasdair McAlpine's Lament' by Vaughn Williams and a setting of the Skye Boat Song arranged by the choir's conductor Tom Wilkinson. This proved a beautiful and interesting twist on a familiar melody and the perfect ending to a wonderful evening of music. The audience may have been small, but the applause was tumultuous and the comments as people left glowing. This group deserves success and will doubtless go far.

Our thanks go to the choir, musicians and Chris for helping to spread the word about our beautiful church as a fine venue for musical events, and for augmenting our coffers with their generous fee and proceeds of the concert to the tune of £600. Also to Maxwell Centre for opening their doors to our guests. It was a privilege to host such a magnificent event, and we hope very much that it will be the first of many.

Kirsty Noltie



St Salvador's Food Cupboard Ministry News

We have very exciting news about the Food Cupboard Ministry. We were chosen as the winner of the Community Endeavour section of the Sheila Tennant Awards in the spirit of Mary Slessor which were organised by Dundee West Parish Church. The Rector submitted an application for one of the awards and was asked to give a presentation about our ministry to a panel of judges. The committee felt about our Food Cupboard Ministry that "this enterprise is truly in the spirit of Mary Slessor providing food, care, advice and support for those on the margins of society. None are turned away regardless of circumstances or life-style".

We are very grateful for this award and it will help support our ministry on a Sunday afternoon in the coming months.

A full report by Kirsty of the service on 16 June when the presentation was made to us follows...

K. Clapson

Author Susan McMullan published a book in May 2015 that may be of interest to our readers. It is entitled "DUNDEE BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT", and includes St. Salvador's as a hidden gem. The book is available from Waterstone's at £9.99.

On average, we spend £2 a week on flowers (providing they last more than one week). Gifts for flowers keep this weekly cost low, and prevent this ongoing expense from being a drain on our resources. Generous donations help us build up a fund that we can draw on over a period of time. At the moment there is nothing in this fund. Will YOU please consider a donation for flowers to ensure that we will be able to continue to have at least one stand of flowers in our church on Sundays over the summer?

Award for St Salvador's

We are delighted to have been awarded £2000 towards our Sunday afternoon drop in mission by the Sheila Tennant Trust, 'In the Spirit of Mary Slessor'. A good and representative group of our helpers were present as Katie Clapson received the award on behalf of the congregation.

Mary Slessor was born in Aberdeenshire in the mid C19, but her father who was a shoemaker to trade moved to Dundee to find work while she was still a child. Finding himself unable to continue the skilled work of making shoes, the whole family ended up working in jute production. As a child Mary worked as a half-timer at Baxter's Mill, progressing to become a fine weaver. But of devout Presbyterian stock she felt a calling to teach, and inspired by David Livingstone she set sail for Calabar in West Africa and a life of mission. Life in Nigeria was hard – Mary, a red haired and blue eyed Scots lass, was the first European to set foot in a land dominated by tribal culture and beliefs. But she earned tremendous respect for her general understanding and encouragement of fairer and better lives for the people rather than enforced evangelism, showing by example Christian principles rather than denigrating native practice. Owing to a particular superstition about twins for example, many such children were abandoned by their parents. Mary was moved to rescue a number of them, giving them a home in the Mission House. Despite several trips back home to recover from malaria, she was doughty in her good works, and after the death of her mother and sister in Scotland, threw herself even more fervently into her life in Nigeria. She earned admiration not only from the local people but also the British Empire, becoming the first female magistrate and a skilled diplomat. She died at 67 years of age following recurrent ill health but continues to be respected both in Africa and Dundee as a true Christian missionary and pioneer. 2015 is her centenary year.

Her philosophy of life and faith was echoed in the life and work of Sheila Tennant, a lady of our own time and until her death last year a member of Dundee West church. Inspired by the example of Mary Slessor, Sheila Tennant, after a life of altruistic endeavours generously bequeathed money to be awarded to community



schemes showing contributions to a simple expression of Christian faith and action in our community.

Dundee West Church was packed to capacity for an enthusiastic event to mark a number of special occasions. The basis of the evening was a concert performed by various members of Victoria Park School and Harris Academy. This was punctuated by a keynote address by Norman W Drummond CBE FRSE, the presentation of the awards by Mary, Countess of Strathmore, and a farewell to James Thewliss, the retiring head of Harris Academy. We were welcomed by the pipe band, there were strings, a woodwind band, guitars and singers, all providing fine examples of youthful musical talent. The church was decorated with painted cut outs of African tribal masks in honour of the adventures of Mary Slessor, and one of my favourite performances was a group of very youthful tribal drummers from Victoria Park School whose beat was compelling. They played with a passion and enthusiasm which would surely have gladdened her heart. Later on a fine Scottish counterpart was provided by a gifted young fiddler who played a racy medley of lively Scots tunes to a gentle guitar accompaniment.

The inspiring address given by Norman Drummond was aimed appropriately at the many youngsters gathered. Norman Drummond is a widely respected and multi-talented Scot. Formerly a Church of Scotland Minister and head of Lorretto School, he was then appointed as Governor of the Broadcasting Council for Scotland. At this point he founded Columba 1400, an organisation to promote the development of leadership skills in youngsters from difficult and challenging backgrounds. He has stated

elsewhere that he sees his role as eliciting the inner greatness of others and giving voice to those who feel unheard. He emphasised the point that one could achieve anything if one really believed in it, should always aim high and that it really was not good enough to say whatever will be will be. He burst into a perfectly tuneful version of Que sera, sera to underline his point! I am always envious of and impressed by charismatic speakers who can produce an eloquent and meaningful flow of words without notes. He has stated elsewhere that he sees his role as eliciting the inner greatness of others and giving voice to those who feel unheard. Much then to echo the credo of the two ladies prompting the whole event, and prompt us into action.

The diminutive and ever elegant and charming Mary, Countess of Strathmore presented the awards with a genuine twinkle in her eye and enjoyment of the occasion. As we chatted afterwards, I was impressed to learn that despite having 'retired' mainly to the Borders, she paid regular visits back to Angus and retained a keen interest in local activities. The awards of £1000-£2000 were made to half a dozen different worthwhile ventures relating to community ac-

tivities, and we are duly grateful that our application, thanks to the support of several of our extended family, was successful.

It was a truly happy and celebratory occasion which concluded with 'Coffee, cakes and conversation' in the church hall. The selection of home baking was impressive and tempting, and it provided a good opportunity to do some networking and catch up with old and new friends.

Kirsty Noltie

Kalendar

Sun., 2 Aug.: Trinity 9: Masses at
9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 4 Aug.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 5 Aug.: St. Oswald of Northumbria:
Mass at 10 AM
Thurs., 6 Aug.: THE TRANSFIGURA-
TION:
Mass at 7 PM
Sun., 9 Aug.: Trinity 10: Masses at
9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 11 Aug.: St. Clare of Assisi: Mass
at 7 PM
Wed., 12 Aug.: St. Blane: Mass at 10 AM
Sat., 15 Aug.: Assumption of Our Lady:
Mass at 11 AM
Sun., 16 Aug.: Trinity 11: Masses a
t 9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 18 Aug.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 19 Aug.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 23 Aug.: Trinity 12: Masses at
9 AM & 11 AM

Mon., 24 Aug.: St. Bartholomew:
Mass at noon
Tues., 25 Aug.: St. Ebba: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 26 Aug.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM
Sat., 29 Aug.: Beheading of St. John the
Baptist: Mass at 11 AM
Sun., 30 Aug.: Trinity 13: Masses at
9 AM & 11 AM

Tues., 1 Sept.: Feria; Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 2 Sept.: Martyrs of Papua-New
Guinea: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 6 Sept.: Trinity 14: Masses
at 9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 8 Sept.: Nativity of the BVM:
Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 9 Sept.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 13 Sept.: Trinity 15: Masses
at 9 AM & 11 AM
Mon., 14 Sept.: HOLY CROSS DAY:
Mass at 7 PM
Tues., 15 Sept.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 16 Sept.: St. Ninian: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 20 Sept.: Trinity 16: Masses
at 9 AM & 11 AM
Mon. 21 Sept.: St. Matthew: Mass at
NOON
Tues., 22 Sept.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 23 Sept.: St. Adamnan: Mass
at 10 AM
Sun., 27 Sept.: Trinity 17: Masses
at 9 AM & 11 AM
Tues., 29 Sept.: St. Michael & All Angels:
Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 30 Sept.: St. Jerome: Mass at 10 AM

I couldn't resist the chance of a weekend away in June when I heard that a renowned composer was holding a choral workshop in Wiltshire culminating in a performance of one of his recent compositions. I am used to being in the beautiful 14th century priory church of Saint Mary, Saint Katharine & All Saints, Edington in August for the liturgical music festival but this was a rather different event consisting of an all-day rehearsal culminating in an early evening performance.

The work to be rehearsed and performed under Bob Chilcott's direction was his *Saint John Passion* written for choir, four soloists (soprano, tenor, and two baritones), and accompaniment. This new setting of the Gospel of Saint John retells the Passiontide story in a dramatic and moving way and, although quite different from the version we use in St Salvador's, felt very familiar to me as I am so used to singing the narrative parts as well as the various characters on Good Friday afternoon. Bob's version uses the choir, as one would expect, to sing the parts of the crowd or groups of soldiers who comment on the story in short outbursts but also to perform four meditations and five hymns that support the story. For the meditations, Bob has used English poems from the 13th to the early 17th centuries with five well-known hymn texts set to new, original melodies. The overall effect is quite stunning and although contemporary is accessible, tuneful, and memorable.

Bob Chilcott has a fine musical pedigree having started as a chorister in the choir of King's College, Cambridge and continued to sing in the choir as a university student. In 1985 he joined the world famous King's Singers and sang tenor for twelve years leaving in 1997 to become a full-time composer. Since then, Bob has become one of the most widely performed composers of choral music in the world. He has been described as "a contemporary hero of British choral music" whose works reflect his wide taste in music styles and his commitment to writing music that is both singable and communicative.

My trip started on Friday, 19th June with a drive through to Edinburgh Airport to catch a late afternoon flight to Bristol which is reasona-

bly conveniently located for Edington. With boarding complete, we took off at 4.40pm and quite incredibly began making our descent into Bristol just 25 minutes later! We landed at 5.30pm and so the whole flight tarmac to tarmac had taken under an hour. Delighted with the smooth start to my trip I picked up a hired car which was waiting for my arrival (thanks to Tesco Boost vouchers!) and set off for Bratton in Wiltshire. Anne, the secretary of Edington Arts who was co-ordinating the event, had kindly offered me supper and a bed for the night and by 7.30pm I was sitting in her garden in the evening sunshine enjoying a glass of wine in the company of her, her sister, and a close friend all of whom were singing the following day.

Saturday morning began with breakfast at 8am and then a short drive to the church arriving well in advance of the event which gave me a chance to catch up with various folk I know from the festival including talented organist, Chris Totney, who was providing the accompaniment: piano for rehearsals and organ for the concert itself. Other singers were impressed that I had travelled so far to take part in the event; people had come from places like Portsmouth, Bath, and Devizes – but I was the only one from Scotland! After we had completed a warm up, Bob arrived just after 10am to begin rehearsals. He is a charming and capable choral director who worked tirelessly through the morning. I enjoyed a lovely picnic lunch courtesy of Anne in Bob's company which provided an opportunity to chat . . . and also ask him to sign my copy of his composition. We continued to work through the afternoon with the four professional soloists joining us partway through to complete the line up. After a tea break in the late afternoon we assembled at 6pm to sing the *Passion* in its entirety.

Part One begins with a fanfare and the opening chorus for the choir, "Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle" and continues with the Evangelist who begins to narrate the story. The first hymn is Bob's tune "Elton", a beautiful setting of "It is a thing most wonderful". The story continues with Peter's denial before a substantial meditation with 17th century text, "Miserere, my Maker". This is followed by a new setting of the Passiontide hymn, "Drop, drop, slow tears" which leads on to Part Two in the Judgement Hall. Another hymn, "Jesu, grant me this, I

pray” and a meditation, “Christ, my beloved” links to the next part of the story in the Judgement Hall during which the Evangelist continues to narrate with interjections from Pilate and the choir which plays the part of the crowd demanding that Jesus be put to death. A beautiful piece of (possibly) 16th century text provides the basis for a meditation, “Away vain world” before Part Three and the crucifixion itself. This includes the well-known hymn, “There is a green hill far away” set to a completely new tune, “Ledger” (named after Bob’s father-in-law), a meditation, “Jesus, my Leman” (leman meaning “beloved person”), and culminates with the narrative of Jesus’ death upon the cross. The entire work ends with an incredibly beautiful setting of “When I survey the Wondrous Cross” the tune entitled, “Amelia”. It was a tiring and moving experience and I was so glad to have made the effort to attend. That evening I drove to nearby Corsham to meet up with friends who I first got to know some years ago when on my first singing trip to the area. After a pleasant and relaxing evening I headed off to bed ready for the following day which involved a drive to nearby Dorset.

Over the last few years I have found that there have been a number of very happy coincidences relating to my singing trips and this one was no exception. The weekend coincided with an event at Sherborne School on the Sunday: the Patrick Shelley Music Competition. Named after the school’s previous director of music who died in 2003, it is a competition for advanced instrumentalists and attracts the cream of the establishment’s musical talent for an all-day event. If you have read (and by any chance remember!) my previous articles about the Edington Festival, you may remember that I mentioned one of the choristers, Finnbar, who returned to the festival the year after he sang to be thurifer. Well, it turned out that he was competing in the competition and his parents asked if I would like to join them for the day. So, I got going sharp on Sunday morning and after breakfast hopped into the car to drive the forty or so miles south to Sherborne.

Leaving Corsham at 9.30am I was parked in the school’s quadrangle known as “The Courts” and ready to meet up with Finn’s parents by a quarter-to-eleven. It was lovely to see them all again and we settled ourselves down in the well

appointed hall for the start of the competition. It began with the piano section which included nine different competitors who played everything from Mozart to Satie. Finn played what sounded like a tortuously difficult piece of Khatchaturian with great aplomb especially given his sixteen years. The performances were of a very high standard and adjudicator, Roy Stratford, a professional pianist and conductor, gave encouraging and constructive criticism to each of the pupils after their performance. We had brunch in the school dining hall followed by relaxing coffee in one of Sherborne’s many coffee shops before returning for the singers’ section in which twelve pupils were competing. After adjudication it was the turn of the string players in which Finn played Bach’s *Prelude from Suite No. 1* on his cello. He won that section with his assured performance. I stayed for part of the woodwind section but had to leave before the end of the competition to ensure I caught my plane home to Edinburgh. Farewells said, I headed off before the presentation of the Patrick Shelley cup at 6pm. I had a feeling that Finn had acquitted himself well in each of the three sections in which he participated but he was being very modest and was convinced another pupil would take the trophy. I was therefore delighted but not entirely surprised when I received a text from his mum to say, “He won the cup!!!”. The adjudicator had said that he felt that Finn’s performances on the cello, piano and as a singer were outstanding.

I arrived at the airport at 6.50pm having refuelled and dropped off the car. Imagine how irritating it was to find that the 8pm flight had been delayed for two hours! Never mind, at least it wasn’t cancelled, I thought. Take-off was actually at 10.25pm, we hit the tarmac in Edinburgh at 11.25pm and I was home before 1am. Another successful, rewarding, and somewhat providential trip all round. I continue to count myself so fortunate to have been given the singing opportunities I have over the last few years and feel they enrich my repertoire and standard of singing for St Salvador’s. Next stop – Oxford for a concert with the Bartholomew Consort.



Come Celebrate!

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St Oswald of Northumbria, Martyr (5 August)

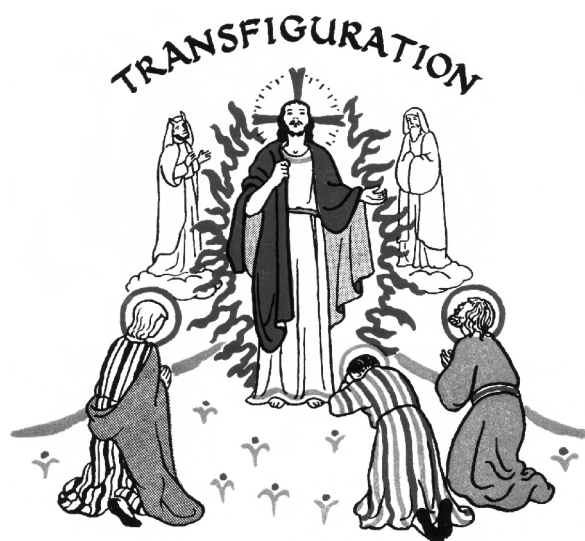
Born around the year 605, the son of King Aelfrith of Northumbria, Oswald was forced to leave home after his father's death and move to Iona where, influenced by the monks of St Columba, he was baptised. Returning to Northumbria in 634, Oswald defeated the British king, setting up a cross as his standard and gathering his men around it to pray the night before the battle. A man of humility and generosity, Oswald worked closely with his friend Aidan, travelling with him on his missionary journeys and acting as his interpreter. He died in battle on this day in 642 defending his kingdom from the pagan Mercians.

The Transfiguration of the Lord (6 August)

The Transfiguration of Jesus reveals that salvation is for all, and that the Son of God is the One who brings that salvation. The testimony of the Law and the Prophets to Jesus are given by the presence of Moses and Elijah, and the event also pre-figures the Resurrection, giving a foretaste of the life of glory.

St Clare of Assisi, Religious (11 August)

Born in 1193 in Assisi of a wealthy family, Clare caught the joy of a new vision of the gospel from Francis' preaching. She escaped from home, first to the Benedictines and then to another group, and she chose a contemplative way of life when she founded her own community, which lived in corporate poverty understood as dependence on God, with a fresh, democratic lifestyle. Clare was the first woman to write



a religious Rule for women, and in it she showed great liberty of spirit in dealing with earlier prescriptions. During the long years after Francis' death, she supported his earlier companions in their desire to remain faithful to his vision, as she did until her death in 1253.

St Blane, Missionary (12 August)

Blane received his education at Bangor in County Down under Comgall. He came to the Island of Bute to work with his uncle, Catan. There are many indications of the work of these two missionaries in Argyll, and Blane eventually moved on eastwards to Strathearn, where the mediaeval Dunblane Cathedral now stands on the site of one of his foundations. The place and date of his death are uncertain, although the year 590 is now generally accepted.

St Mary the Virgin (15 August)

The Church customarily commemorates saints on the day of their death, and although the date and place of the Blessed Virgin's death are unknown, for centuries today has been celebrated as her principal feast. In the East, today's feast is entitled 'The Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Virgin'; in the Roman Catholic Church, reflect-

ing its distinctive doctrinal emphasis, it is called 'The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary'. Both are equally ancient titles for this festival, when the Church celebrates the reunion of Christ with His Mother.

St Bartholomew, Apostle (24 August)

It has long been assumed that Bartholomew is the same as Nathanael, 'bar Tolmai' being a Jewish surname, however, this identification is by no means certain. Nathanael was described as an Israelite worthy of the name, as he was an upright man who, as the Gospel account tells us, came to recognise Jesus as the Son of God and the King of Israel. Some later writers connect Bartholomew's career after Pentecost with Armenia, where he is said to have been flayed alive, but there is no reliable historical evidence for this.

St Ebba of Coldingham, Abbess (25 August)

Ebba was the sister of the Northumbrian prince Oswald and shared his exile on Iona. Later, she established a mixed community of monks and nuns (not uncommon in the Celtic tradition) on the Northumbrian coast near Coldingham. It came to have a reputation for laxity and luxury, possibly because Ebba, whom Bede calls a 'pious woman and handmaid of Christ' was unable to exert the strong leadership which such a community required. She died about the year 683, and the community is said to have been destroyed by lightning soon after.

The Beheading of St John the Baptist (29 August)

The main celebration for John the Baptist is on 24 June, the date observing his birth, but John was also the forerunner of Christ in his death, which followed his denunciation of immorality and his call to repentance.

24th S. BARTHOLOMEW



Smudge the Rectory Cat died on Friday, 10 July while on the Rector's lap. She had been ailing for over a month. Smudge was about 17 years old, and had lived longer than might have been expected of a cat with cerebral palsy and other issues. She was resourceful, brave, and affectionate—a real one-off—and is terribly missed. Thank you for your many condolences. *Fr.C & K*

Thank you to Roy McKelvie, Eric & Muriel's son, who recently donated flowers in memory of his grandparents David and Margaret Hume.

Diocesan Website:
www.brechin.anglican.org

Spare change donated to us and collected up in our large COKE bottles has recently been counted, and amounted to £46.57. Thank you!

The deadline for the next issue of 'Crucis' is Sunday, 23 August. Please send any material to the Editor (the Rector) by that day. Thank you!

St Salvador's Directory

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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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