

CRUCIS

Magazine of St. Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church Dundee

December 2009

"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...

I have had more comments about the last issue of *Crucis* than I have had for any church magazine in years! Specifically, most of our readers who have asked me about it want to know what the graphic on the front page was.

The article that accompanied it, you may recall, was about how November weather seemed to be in sympathy with a dark, down-beat, miserable mood in the world around us. The Church Year not only gives us reminders of death, but also a vision of hope and light. The picture shows figures partly obscured by lashing rain, hunched under umbrellas in a city street, hurrying along through the deluge. I thought the picture illustrated the theme of the article well. Maybe not!

So, if you have been wondering what that picture was about: mystery solved! However, some mysteries are not so easily solved. Is everything always quite so obvious? What are we to make, then, of the picture that the Christmas story presents?

We would probably say at first that the picture could hardly be more obvious. The choir of Angels made sure of that! However, if you look carefully at the story as St. Luke presents it, there was no star that night and there were no unusual visitors: all THAT happened later. On the night of Our Lord's birth it was only the shepherds who saw and heard the Angels. Everyone else looking on saw nothing all that unusual.

What did they see? A young girl gave birth to a baby. It happened every day. The child was wrapped in swaddling clothes. This was the custom of the time. The family was sleeping rough. There were plenty of people in that predicament, particularly on that night. The child was placed in a manger. Other children were probably perched all over the place that night when no-one could find a place for the night. Nothing remarkable about any of that. The picture was straight-forward. Onlookers might have been moved to pity, but not to wonder.

However, under the surface there was a deep mystery unfolding, the mystery of God's entering into the human story as a human being. It was the shepherds that had the right vision of it, and it was anything but obvious. This was why the shepherds approached the stable in wonder and left it with thanksgiving. This is how generations have reacted to the picture that the Christmas story presents: how about you?

O come, let us adore Him!

Fr. Clive



WORDS AND WORTHIES

Frankenstein and the Monster

Everybody has heard (often from lurid films) of Frankenstein, the enterprising scientist who created a 'monster' and then wondered whether it had been such a good idea after all. The novel which started it all was written in 1817 by a nineteen-year-old girl who had not long before been living in Dundee for nearly a year (with a Baxter family). She was Mary Wollstonecraft, who became Mary Shelley when she married the poet of that name. Like her mother (also Mary) she was a formidable woman, one of the early feminists. Both women had - shall we say? - complex marital histories. Her mother had written *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* in 1792, the same year in which Robert Burns produced a poem on the same subject; though Burns' ideas of 'women's rights' were a bit different from Mary's. (He was thinking of their right to be protected, pampered, admired: surely a very poor substitute for being allowed to vote for an MP once every five years.)

There is an episode in the novel where the scientist Frankenstein is travelling north through Britain to find solitude in which to create another being, who could be a mate for the 'monster'. (Actually, 'monster' is really the wrong word. The being Frankenstein creates is sensitive, thoughtful and well-educated, and it is only because of the terrible way he is treated by human beings that he reacts badly.) The scientist reaches Edinburgh, then goes on to Cupar and St Andrews before travelling along the side of the Tay to Perth (presumably *via* Tayport and Newburgh, though I suppose it is possible that he got the ferry across to Dundee). Eventually he reaches Orkney, where he sets up a laboratory and starts on the new project.

Two things about the story stick in my mind. One is that the scientist becomes very concerned - though rather belatedly - about the deeper issues involved in tampering with human life. We have to admire him for that, and we can't help contrasting Frankenstein with a certain modern type of scientific researcher, the type who seems to know as much about ethics as I do about the rules of curling (i.e. virtually nothing). The other thing is that Mary Shelley's fictitious character has become one of the truly

striking images of modern times. Frankenstein's 'monster' personifies now anything which - with often the best of intentions - human beings produce and which gets out of hand. We all have our lists of 'Frankenstein-monsters': motor-cars, television, feminism even. The truth is that we can only see so far ahead, and no further. That should make us cautious and humble, but strangely it often seems to make us reckless and arrogant.

Fr Gordon



"A Renaissance Christmas by Candlelight" with Cantiones Sacrae

Our resident Renaissance group *Cantiones Sacrae* has developed a national reputation for the quality of their unaccompanied vocal performances and, on Sunday, December 20th at 7.30pm, will perform their annual festive concert in St Salvador's. This concert has become firm favourite with many people both from the Dundee area and beyond. To create a truly seasonal atmosphere for the event the church will be bathed in the light of over two hundred candles. Extra heating will also be installed for those who are not used to St Salvador's well-ventilated conditions!

This year's programme will include a vari-

ety of Advent & Christmas motets, carols and Mass settings. As well as old favourites such as "O magnum mysterium" (Victoria), "Stille nacht", "Coventry carol", and "Away in a manger", the group has been adding to its repertoire and this year will perform a number of works for the first time including two different versions of "Hodie Christus natus est" – one by Byrd and the other by Palestrina, "Resonet in laudibus" (Gallus), and two Masses including Nicholas Wilton's beautiful new Missa Brevis which includes his communion motet, "O sacrum convivium".

Tickets are priced £7 (concessions £5) and are now on sale from Dundee City Box Office, 6 City Square, Dundee, 01382 434940 and will also be available at the door on the 20th, subject to availability. To save yourself a trip to the City Square, please speak to Graeme Adamson who will have tickets for sale each Sunday in advent. After the concert there is a complimentary glass of mulled wine for members of audience.

If you need any encouragement to come along, here's what the music critic had to say about last year's concert:

"Quite simply, when it comes to this form of music, they are in a class of their own". (Dundee Courier).



The Powder Puff Ballet on ice, December 1946. The late Ruby Blake is second from right. Recognise anyone else?

No Carols and Lessons this Year

In the last few years the service of Carols and Lessons has been held on the Saturday between Christmas and New Year's Day. Unfortunately—despite all the preparation work that has gone into it—attendance has been falling off. This year, an added complication is that the Saturday is in fact Boxing Day. For these reasons we will not be having Christmas Carols and Lessons this year. However, there will be plenty of opportunities during our many other services over the Christmas season to sing Christmas carols and to hear the lessons telling the wonderful story of the Saviour's birth.

Holiday Masses

Christmas Eve:

Midnight Mass : 11.45 PM
of the Angels

Christmas Day:

Dawn Mass of the Shepherds: 9 AM
Mass of the Incarnate Word: 11 AM

Boxing Day: Mass at 10 AM

New Year's Day: Mass at 10 AM

For the full list of services, please consult the Kalendar on p. 6.

New Rugs at West End of Church

We have acquired two rugs in traditional pattern to cover more of the stone floor in our coffee and toddler areas at the back of the church. Many thanks to the Conlans for their much appreciated gift.

**Sermon preached by the Rector
on the Feast of Christ the King,
Sunday
22 November 2009**

“Jesus answered [Pilate], ‘My kingdom is not from this world’” John 18: 36a

This festival of Christ the King says important things about Christ and the Church, fundamental things of which all of us need to be reminded from time to time. The Kingdom of God was the whole content of Christ's teaching and preaching. It was the context within which all His miracles were performed. They were “signs [of the Kingdom]”. Our Lord and His contemporaries saw His ministry in terms of the Kingdom, and it was because of His Kingship that He was put to death. God's People rejected their Messiah and King and so rejected the Kingdom that God had prepared for them: “We have no king but Caesar.” When Our Lord rose from death, again it was seen in terms of God's Kingdom, and the whole experience by the first Christians of Christ's risen life was regarded as sharing a foretaste now of what was to come.

The reality of the Kingdom of God, over which the Risen Lord presides, was fundamental to everything for the first Christians; can we say the same of the Church today when we look around us? No? Then what changed?

What happened was that Christians began increasingly to see the Kingdom as something separated from this world. When Jesus said, “My kingdom is not from this world”, they took it to mean that the Kingdom doesn't belong here. They began to see it as something having to do with the future only - after we die or when the Lord returns at the end of time. That isn't what Our Lord said. The Kingdom DOES belong in the world, but it doesn't belong TO the world. It belongs to God. In the book of Revelation 1: 5b-6, that we heard today, it suggests that our relationship to God through Christ has ALREADY incorporated us into the Kingdom prior to Our Lord's return in glory. What this means is that the Kingdom is already here, in this world, and that we belong to it through our relationship with its King. It was this lively sense of being part of God's Kingdom NOW in this world that the first Christians had and that we need to regain.

If you look at a British passport, you will see that we are citizens of the United Kingdom because we are subjects of Her Majesty the Queen. Those wanting to become British citizens must swear allegiance to nothing and no-one but the Queen. Unlike many other modern nations, our citizenship derives not from ethnic origin, or from acceptance of a certain set of principles and the institutions that implement them. Rather, it is derived from a relationship to our sovereign. So too in the Kingdom of God. We are its citizens because of our relationship to its King, Jesus Christ. We constitute His Kingdom, not because we inhabit a particular building, but because we are members of Christ's Body the Church by our Baptism. It is this that gives us all the awesome privilege and responsibility to function as His Priests in the world, offering to Him for redemption a world divided and enslaved by sin, and offering to that world the good news of His love and presence within it by what we say and do.

Because by Baptism we belong to God, we belong to His Kingdom already, here and now. We are all His Priests, sharing Christ's Priesthood. The Kingdom of God belongs not TO the world, but IN the world, where Christ is through this ministry that He shares with His People. We gather to worship and scatter for service, in faithfulness to our calling as citizens now of the Kingdom – and the Kingdom of the living Christ is revealed through us day by day, week by week and year by year.

+++

**“Growing towards a thriving Church”:
The Diocese of Brechin Mission Conference held
on 3rd October at Chalmers Ardler Church,
Dundee**

This was an interesting day and was well represented by parishes within our diocese and beyond – many friends from other dioceses having taken up the invitation to attend. After a short service led by Bishop John, the business of the day began.

The Venerable Bob Jackson, a retired Archdeacon and author of “Hope for the Church” and “The Road to Growth”, was the keynote speaker. He spoke insightfully and humorously about his experiences and successes in encouraging growth within the church and covered topics such as mission motives for church growth and reasons for decline in church attendance and how to stop it. Under the heading

W5: Who, What, When, Where, Why

Saint Nicholas was a fourth-century Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (modern Turkey). There is a “biography” of him from the ninth century that is fairly worthless historically, but filled with wonders and a number of charming stories. Many of these tales concern his love and care for children, how he fed the hungry, healed the sick, saved endangered sailors and cared for the oppressed. St Nicholas is patron saint of seafarers (popular for that reason in Scotland), and of children. He saved three girls from prostitution by providing them anonymously with dowries – three bags of gold coins – which is how the custom of giving children gifts of coins or other treats or presents developed on his feast day (6 Dec.), and became part of our modern Christmas celebrations. Ever wondered why we have bags of chocolate coins at Christmas? Now you know!

Mission Conference cont'd

“Going for Growth” he suggested that it was important that we give newcomers a better welcome, try starting new services, engage in youth and children’s ministries, and attempt initiatives such as “Back to Church Sunday”. The churches where “joy and laughter” were evident were consistently shown to have positive growth in research carried out in the course of his work on mission.

This keynote presentation was followed by a number of smaller group sessions.

Rev. Dr. Anne Tomlinson who is Ministry Adviser for the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway picked up some of Bob Jackson’s themes as she suggested that we should all wander round our own church and its grounds trying to see them as though for the first time. She then asked us to consider such things as “What feelings and images are conjured up?” and “What could be done to improve things?”.

Rev. Canon John Walker of St. Mary’s Inverurie gave a small group presentation on reaching God and offered numerous suggestions for resources on spirituality.

Mrs Nerys Brown, St. Mary’s Dunblane, gave her account of their hugely successful project to engage children and teenagers with their church and its activities.

Some of the presentations have been forwarded to me as PowerPoints. Should you wish to view them, please let me know.

Graeme Adamson

A Message from the Rector

Donations of funds for flowers to decorate the church are welcome throughout the year, and especially on our high festivals of Holy Cross, Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, Easter and Whitsun. The value of floral decorations is particularly appreciated after we emerge from the penitential seasons when there are no flowers in church.

Recently it has come to my attention that the number of donations for flowers has been gradually diminishing over the past year.

If we are going to maintain this lovely addition to our worship, we need your help. At the moment we especially need donations for Christmas flowers. If you would like to make a donation, please see Pam Callaghan. Thank you!

What a way to spend your 80th birthday! Poor Evelyn Kelly had a mishap at a bus stop just days before her special day in November, and ended up with a badly injured foot in hospital. Unknown to her, son David arrived on a surprise visit from Australia for the big day and ended up himself surprised! However, Evelyn was released from Ninewells in time for the festivities, although she had to spend most of her time with her heavily bandaged foot elevated (no dancing, then!). At the time of writing, Evelyn has had to return to hospital due to an infection in the wound and to undergo some tests to see why the foot is not healing as quickly as hoped.

After a bout of recent health problems, we are glad to see that Ann Farmer and Elsie Greig have recovered and are back among us.

A personal note from Evelyn

I would like to thank all my friends at St. Salvador’s for their prayers, cards, gifts and phone calls on the occasion of my Big Birthday and also on my collision with the bus. I hope I will soon be back.

Kalendar

Tues. 1 Dec.: St. Charles de Foucauld:
Mass at 7 PM

Wed. 2 Dec. Nicholas Ferrer: Mass at 10 AM

Sat. 5 Dec.: Feria: Requiem Mass at 11 AM

Sun. 6 Dec.: Advent 2: Masses at 9 & 11 AM;
Evensong and Benediction at 5 PM

Tues. 8 Dec.: Conception of the BVM:
Mass at 7 PM

Wed. 9 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sun. 13 Dec.: Advent 3: Masses at 9 & 11 AM

Tues. 15 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed. 16 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sun. 20 Dec.: Advent 4: Masses at 9 & 11 AM
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT at 7.30 PM:
Admission by ticket

Tues. 22 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed. 23 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Thurs. 24 Dec.: Christmas Eve:
Midnight Mass of the Angels: 11.45 PM

Fri. 25 Dec.: Christmas Day:
Dawn Mass of the Shepherds: 9 AM;
Mass of the Incarnate Word: 11 AM

Sat. 26 Dec.: St. Stephen: Mass at 10 AM

Sun. 27 Dec.: Christmas 1:
Masses at 9 & 11 AM

Mon. 28 Dec.: Holy Innocents: Mass at 10 AM

Tues. 29 Dec.: St. John, Ap. & Ev.:
Mass at 7 PM

Wed. 30 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Fri. 1 Jan.: Naming & Circumcision of Jesus:
Mass at 10 AM

Sun. 3 Jan.: Christmas 2: Masses at 9 & 11 AM;
Evensong and Benediction at 5 PM

Tues. 5 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed. 6 Jan.: The Epiphany: No Mass at 10 AM:
Solemn Mass at 7 PM

Sun. 10 Jan.: Baptism of Our Lord:
Masses at 9 & 11 AM

Tues. 12 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed. 13 Jan.: St. Kentigern: Mass at 10 AM

Sun. 17 Jan.: Epiphany 2: Masses at 9 & 11 AM

Tues. 19 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed. 20 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sun. 24 Jan.: Epiphany 3: Masses at 9 & 11 AM

Mon. 25 Jan.: Conversion of St. Paul:
Mass at 7 PM

Tues. 26 Jan.: Ss. Timothy & Titus:
Mass at 7 PM

Wed. 27 Jan.: St. John Chrysostom:
Mass at 10 AM

Sun. 31 Jan.: Epiphany 4: Masses at 9 & 11 AM

Come Celebrate!

Biographical details are reproduced, with permission, from *Exciting Holiness*, Canterbury Press, unless otherwise credited.

Charles de Foucauld, Priest and Hermit (1 December)

Charles Eugene de Foucauld was born in 1858 and led a dissipated life as a young officer in the cavalry. In 1883, he went out on an expedition to Morocco where he developed a passion for north Africa and its ways. Four years later, he returned to the Catholic faith of his infancy and, after a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, became a Trappist monk in 1890. Desiring an even more austere life, he left in 1897 and became a servant to the Poor Clares in Jerusalem and Nazareth. He was eventually ordained priest in 1901 and went to live as a hermit in Algeria, ending up at Tamanrasset. He became fluent in the local language and his care and concern for the local tribes-people made him accepted and then much loved, though he never sought converts. He composed Rules for brothers and for sisters, though he none ever actually joined him. He was assassinated on this day in 1916, a victim of local religious wars. The Little Sisters of the Sacred Heart were founded in 1933, inspired by his rule for sisters. His writings also inspired Rene Voillaume and others to adopt a life based on his rule, eventually becoming The Little Brothers of Jesus in 1945.

Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon (2 December)

Born in London in 1592, Nicholas Ferrar was educated at Cambridge and elected a fellow there in 1610. From 1613 he travelled on the continent for five years, trying his hand as a businessman and parliamentarian on his return. In 1625, he moved to Little Gidding in Huntingdonshire, where he was joined by his brother and sister and their families and by his mother. They established together a community life of

prayer, using the Book of Common Prayer, and a life of charitable works in the locality. He was ordained to the diaconate by William Laud the year after they arrived. Nicholas died at the beginning of December in 1637, but the community continued until the Puritans broke it up in 1646 and burned all of its founder's manuscripts.

The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8 December)

This festival in honour of the Conception of the Mother of our Lord is celebrated on this day in both the Eastern and the Western Church. This feast, which dates from the seventh century, marks the dawn of the New Covenant, celebrating the gracious preparation by God of his people to receive their Saviour and Lord, putting 'heaven in ordinary' and showing that mortal flesh can indeed bring Christ to the world.

St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr (26 December)

In the Acts of the Apostles, St Stephen is described as one of the first seven deacons appointed to care for the widows in the early Church in Jerusalem. He is the Church's proto-martyr, the first to bear witness to Christ by offering his life. The name 'Stephen' means, appropriately, 'crown'.

St John, Apostle and Evangelist (27 December, transferred to 29th)

St John was one of the sons of Zebedee, along with James, who followed Jesus. He is described as 'the disciple whom Jesus loved', and was one of the inner circle of Jesus' followers who witnessed and shared in all the major events of our Lord's ministry. In both the Gospel that bears his name and in the epistles credited to him, the powerful theological concept of the incarnate Word of God is proclaimed. St John is believed to have been the only one of our Lord's disciples to have lived to old age

and not to have been put to death for his faith in the One who loved him and the One whom he loved. It is thought that he died in Asia Minor.

The Holy Innocents (28 December)

Although there is no historical evidence outside the Holy Scriptures for the massacre of the children of Bethlehem by King Herod, it is an act consistent with his other misdeeds that are well documented by non-scriptural sources. Today is a particularly appropriate occasion to remember all innocent victims of human cruelty.



We continue to collect used postage stamps (domestic and foreign) and post cards, as well as old spectacles and (clean) tin foil to raise money for a variety of good causes. Please bring any contributions to church and leave them in the basket at the back. Thank you!

Thank you for your donations of food and useful household/family items to our cupboard at the back of the church for those who come to us for assistance. We are in constant need of shopping bags for our distribution as well.

ADVENT GIFTS IN KIND: There is a list at the back of the church of various useful items needed for the maintenance of our buildings and programme. Please commit yourself to providing at least one, if you can. Many thanks!

The deadline for the next issue of *Crucis* is Sunday, 20th December. Please submit articles or information by then. Thanks!

St Salvador's Directory

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

St Salvador's Church, St Salvador Street, Dundee, DD3 7EW (access via Carnegie St)

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.

Primus	The Most Rev. D. Chillingworth	Tel: 01738 643000 (office)
Diocesan Bishop	The Rt Rev. Dr. John Mantle	Tel: 01382 562 244 (office)
Rector	The Rev. Clive Clapson SSC	St Salvador's Rectory 9 Minard Crescent DUNDEE DD3 6LH Tel: 01382 221785 father.clive@blueyonder.co.uk
Clergy team	The Rev. George Greig The Rev. Dr. Gordon Kendal	Tel: 01382 566709 Tel: 01828 633400
Honorary Treasurer	Dr Darron Dixon-Hardy	c/o Rector
Honorary Secretary	Dr Kirsty Noltie	42 Addison Place ARBROATH DD11 2BA Tel: 01241 437739
Lay Representative	Mrs Katie Clapson	c/o Rector
Alt. Lay Representative	VACANT	
People's Churchwarden & Child Protection Officer	Mrs Muriel McKelvie	Liff Cottage, 12 Church Road, LIFF, Angus DD2 5NN Tel: 01382 580065
Rector's Churchwarden	Mr Martin Andrews	First Floor Flat 10 Brown Constable Street DUNDEE DD4 6QZ Tel: 01382 223465 mhdeta@blueyonder.co.uk
Envelope and Gift Aid Secretary	Mrs J. Cassells	105 Ancrum Road DUNDEE DD2 2HN Tel: 01382 668564
Sacristan	Mrs Evelyn Kelly	Tel: 01382 812475
Flowers	Mrs F. Callaghan	Tel: 01382 864363
Cantor, Choirmaster & Webmaster	Dr Graeme Adamson	Tel/Fax: 01382 667009

Magazine

Please send comments, corrections and material to the Rector. Note: material may be omitted, or edited for length and suitability. Postal subscriptions £12 p.a. inc. p&p. Also available free as a PDF.