

CRUCIS

Magazine of St. Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church Dundee
December 2017

"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

Christmas Eve:
Midnight Mass of the Angels
at 11.30 PM

Christmas Day:
Dawn Mass of the Shepherds
at 9 AM
Mass of the Incarnate Word
at 11 AM

Tues., 26 Dec.: St. Stephen:
Mass at 10 AM

Wed., 27 Dec.: St. John:
Mass at 10 AM

Thurs., 28 Dec.: The Holy Innocents:
Mass at 7 PM

New Year's Day:
The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus:
Mass at 10 AM

of God about to break into the world with the coming of the promised Saviour. We also look ahead to the return of Christ in power and glory.

The main characters in the story of Christ's birth at Christmas were also looking ahead. Our Lady and St. Joseph were looking forward to the birth of Jesus. The Shepherds left their flocks to race expectantly into Bethlehem in the middle of the night to witness His coming.

Epiphany too is about looking ahead. The Wise Men followed the Star on the long journey to find Christ. King Herod looked ahead in fear as to what the Child's appearing might mean for him. At Our Lord's baptism in the Jordan His public ministry lay open before Him.

Let us keep looking up, looking ahead, as these weeks proceed, so that we too might see "the power of God coming..."

In the Beginning...

Back in my childhood as a Cathedral Chorister, the huge church was packed, silent, and dark at the beginning of the annual service of Advent Carols and Lessons. A lone tenor voice then began the Mattins Responsory for Advent: "I look from afar. And lo! I see the power of God coming..."

Everyone looks forward to Christmas: most with joy and a few with fear or sadness. For good or ill, we all anticipate Christmas. Advent is the season *par excellence* for looking ahead. We stand again with God's ancient people looking from afar to see the power

A blessed Advent and Holy Season to all,

Fr. Clive





Every Advent for quite some years now, *Cantiones Sacrae* has presented a seasonal concert in St Salvador's Church. This event has become a popular fixture in many people's pre-Christmas schedules and we have received some lovely comments over the years including, "Your concert lifts the spirits. I always marvel at the magic you create" and, "Since I was introduced to your concert a couple of years ago, it has become a central part of Christmas for me."

This year, *Cantiones Sacrae* presents "Carols by Candlelight" a slightly lighter programme than in previous years with a greater number of well-loved carols. As always, the music will be sung *a cappella* and by the light of over 200 candles – as well as a bit of extra lighting on the platform so that you can see us!

Our main reason for altering the selection of music slightly is that we are opening up the concert to what we hope will be a new audience as we are singing in aid of Maggie's Centre, Dundee. Maggie's is well known to many people locally and provides free practical, emotional and social support to

people with cancer and their family and friends. The Dundee Maggie's is built in the grounds of Ninewells Hospital and has professional staff on hand to offer the kinds of support needed by people with a diagnosis of cancer.

"Carols by Candlelight" takes place on Sunday, 17th December at 7.30pm. Tickets priced at £8.00 are available now directly from Graeme Adamson or in person from Dundee City Box Office, 16 City Square, Dundee, DD1 3BG. Tickets can also be booked by telephoning 01382 434940 and are available online at www.dundeebox.co.uk

Please note that there are modest, additional transaction fees when using the box office to buy tickets.

The other slight change this year is that we are not offering refreshments in the hall afterwards. This will minimise expenses and maximise the amount we can donate. All ticket monies from our concert will go directly to Maggie's Centre, Dundee. www.maggiescentres.org

We do hope you'll be able to join us.

Graeme Adamson



VESTRY NEWS

The Vestry was busy in November preparing for our AGM which was held on Sunday November 26th in the Lower Hall. We had 18 members present with 6 apologies received and the meeting received reports from: the Vestry, given by the Rector, the Rector, the Treasurer which included the accounts, the PVG Officer, the Lay Representative, and one about our Food Cupboard Ministry. Some discussion followed these reports but the main issue raised concerned the sound system in the church. Some of our members are struggling to hear parts of the service so we plan to look into this problem. If you struggle to hear the Rector at any point please let him know.

Our meeting was a model of brevity with all business being conducted in less than an hour.

Your Vestry for the coming year consists of:
Rector's Warden, Mr Martin Andrews,
People's warden, Mrs Muriel McKelvie
Secretary, Mrs Katie Clapson
Lay representative, Mrs Katie Clapson,
Treasurer, Dr Craig Cassells
Vestry Members, Mrs Norma Cassells
and Mr John Caithness

Our PVG Officer is Dr Kirsty Noltie and our Alternative Lay Representative is Mr Arthur Lynch.

Please keep them in your prayers as they serve our Congregation in these important roles.

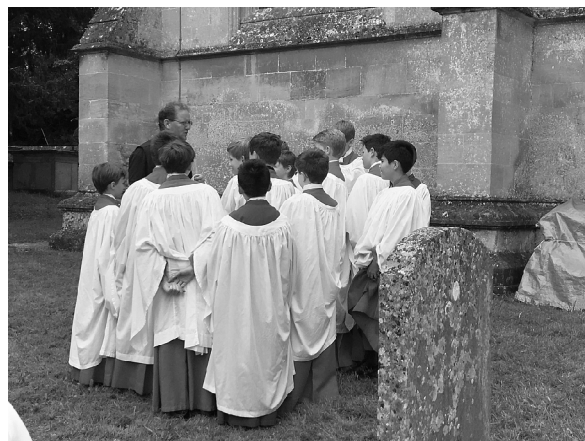
Katie Clapson, Vestry Sec.

Edington Festival 2017 – Part Two

Monday, 21st August – the first full day of the festival. As a member of the Schola Cantorum, which is first on and last off almost every day of the week, the morning began quite early for me. By 8.20am the Schola members had gathered in the chancel of the church to rehearse that morning's Matins which began on the dot of nine o'clock. The twelve of us, resplendent in bright red cassocks and crisp, white surplices processed into the chancel from the north transept as the bell in the priory tower struck nine. A good number of faithful festival-goers attend this first service of the day, many sitting just behind the Schola in the chancel whilst some sit in the nave.

As always, Matins is sung entirely to plainsong and began with the responses and then the antiphon *Laetamini in Dominio* (Rejoice in the Lord) followed by Psalm 113. The plainsong hymn *Salutis aeternae dator* (Giver of life, eternal Lord) was followed by the antiphon *O quam gloriosum* (O how glorious), the service concluding with music by Thomas Tomkins (1572 – 1656) played expertly by the Schola's resident organist, Charles Maxtone-Smith. There is barely time to change out of our robes before we are back in the chancel to practise for another thirty minutes or so before a welcome cup of tea from the little hut in the church's car park.

The morning's Eucharist began at 11.30am after another rehearsal for us up in the belfry. The Schola was kept busy during this service as we sang the bulk of the Ordinary of the Mass using the plainsong setting Mass XII. Other music was supplied by the mixed voice Consort who sang *In spiritu humilitatis* (Humble in spirit) by





Giovanni Croce (1557 – 1609) and *O sacrum convivium* (O most sacred banquet) by Francisco Guerrero (1528 – 1599). The theme of this year's festival was the Beatitudes: the eight blessings recounted by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. "Blessed are the poor in spirit" was the subject for the first of the week's sermons.

A tasty lunch was served for the sixty or so singers in the Parish Hall following the service after which it was time for the first of the choristers' outings. Some of the relatively nearby cathedrals and chapels had, as is now the custom, donated the services of sixteen accomplished trebles who have to be entertained during their time off each afternoon. It was – once again – a trip to the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton . . . my seventh annual visit. My car load included ex-choristers Zac and Max from St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle who this year were acting as crucifer and thurifer, and Felix, one of the first-time trebles from Southwark Cathedral. Once again, I had the company of Tom, one of the Consort, who continues his post graduate studies in the hope of becoming a professional opera singer. The visit went well and the youngsters enjoyed their time looking at the multitude of naval and aircraft exhibits including a mock-up of the Ark Royal, as well as the boys' customary time to the gift shop which does a roaring trade in assorted sweeties when we visit.

On our return to Edington we enjoyed a light tea before rehearsing for the evening's services of Evensong and Compline. Solemn Evensong

began with the Schola singing the plainsong Litany and the office hymn, *Placare, Christe, servulis* (O Christ, thy guilty people spare). The canticles were sung by the Consort and were William Byrd's (1539 – 1623) beautiful Second Service. The anthem was Kenneth Leighton's (1929 – 1988) splendid *Let all the world* and the service concluded with *Love Divine* to the famous tune, Blaenwern.

There is little time between the end of Evensong and our service of Compline but we just have time to nip up to the belfry for a quick practice – while the other singers pack up for the day. Come 9.15pm we were assembled in the north transept ready to process in to the choir stalls, the church now bathed in the gentle light of dozens candles the wax from which periodically drips noisily on to the polythene sheets placed beneath the candelabra to protect the flooring. Music for the service included Jehan Alain's (1911 – 1940) *Postlude pour l'Office de Complies*, *Psalm 41*, and *Ave regina caelorum* (Hail, queen of heaven).

The service complete there was little left to do but to change out of our robes and depart to the pub or to our hosts' homes (I chose the latter as I know my limitations and need for sleep). A welcome G&T awaited at Anne and Stepehen's, my hosts for the week, who live in a lovely house in the aptly named "Wilderness" in nearby Bratton. What a pleasant way to end a busy day. More next month . . .

Graeme Adamson



Come Celebrate!

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St Nicholas of Myra, Bishop (6 December)

Nicholas was a fourth-century Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. His reputation as a worker of wonders was enhanced by a ninth-century hagiography and he is now best known through these stories. Many of them concern his love and care for children, how he fed the hungry, healed the sick, saved endangered sailors and cared for the oppressed. He saved three girls from prostitution by providing them with dowries, and so developed the tradition of bearing gifts to children on his feast day, a practice appropriated for the Christmas celebrations. St Nicholas is also patron saint of seafarers, and is one of the patron saints of Russia.

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)

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.

The Naming of Jesus (1 January)

The celebration of this scriptural festival, that has been observed since the sixth century, marks three events: first, the naming of the infant Jesus; secondly, the circumcision as the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham 'and his children for ever', thus Christ's keeping of the Law; and thirdly, the first shedding of Christ's Blood.

St Seraphim of Sarov, Monk (2 January)

Born in 1759 at Kursk in Russia, Seraphim entered the Monastery of Our Lady at Sarov, near Moscow, when he was 20 years old. He lived as a Solitary for over 30 years, but his gifts as a spiritual guide brought thousands to him for healing in spirit, soul and body. The 'Jesus Prayer' formed the heart of his own devotional life, and he stressed the need for all Christians to have an unceasing communion with the person of Jesus. He died on this day in 1833, and is revered in the Russian Orthodox as the very 'ikon of Orthodox Spirituality'.

The Epiphany of the Lord (6 January)

Originally, this very ancient feast was celebrated on this day as the premier Christian celebration of the Incarnation, including both the Nativity of Christ and His Baptism. At some point, Christians in the West began to celebrate the Nativity of Christ on 25 December, and by the fifth century, the eve of the Epiphany (5 January – 'Twelfth Night') commemorated the visit of the Magi and rounded off the western Christmas festivities. Christians in the East have retained the ancient unity of this festival, as the great celebration of the revelation of the Word made flesh.

Our Sunday Schedule

8.45 AM: Mattins (Traditional)
9 AM: Low Mass (Modern)
11 AM: Solemn Mass (Traditional)
1.15 PM: Midday Prayer (Modern)
5 PM: Evening Prayer (Traditional)



W5: Who, What, When, Where, Why

Originally, the great festival of the appearing of the Incarnate Son of God was the Epiphany, not Christmas. It was celebrated on 6th January. The festival commemorated not Christ's birth, but His Baptism. A celebration of Our Lord's Birth was at first unheard of.

Christmas had its origins in the Western Church. A commemoration of Christ's Birth was observed in Rome from the early part of the 4th century, and it was in the year 354 that Bishop Liberius decreed formally that the Birth of Our Lord should be celebrated on 25th December. The festival of Christ's Birth did not in fact reach the East until the 5th century. There it has remained a secondary feast to the Epiphany right up to modern times.

It is thought that both the festival and its timing were carefully chosen as an opportunity for Christian evangelism in the heart of the Empire and as a means to counteract certain heretical trends within the Church.

Paganism was still well-established, well-organised, well-endowed and well-articulated in Rome when the decision was made by the Pope to celebrate Christ's Birth. The winter solstice in the third week of December had a particular focus for the pagans there and throughout Western Europe. The observance of the Birth of the Incarnate Son of God on earth at the same time as the climax of the traditional Roman Saturnalia, coinciding with the Feast of the Unconquered Sun in Mithraism (Christianity's great rival at the time), confronted both the old and the new competing religions in Rome at a stroke. At the same time, the emphasis on the Incarnation of the Word counter-acted heresies in the Western Church herself at that time that denied Christ's divinity.

Reprinted from CRUCIS Dec. 2008

Kalendar

Sun., 3 Dec.: Advent 1: Masses at 9AM
& 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 5 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 6 Dec.: St. Nicholas: Mass at 10 AM

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

Sun., 10 Dec.: Advent 2: Masses at 9AM
& 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 12 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 13 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 17 Dec.: Advent 3: Masses at 9AM
& 11AM; No EP; Carol Concert at 7.30 PM

Tues., 19 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 20 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 24 Dec.: Advent 4: Masses at 9AM
& 11AM; No EP; Midnight Mass at 11.30 PM

Mon., 25 Dec.: CHRISTMAS DAY:
Masses at 9 & 11 AM

Tues., 26 Dec.: St. Stephen: Mass at 10 AM

Wed., 27 Dec.: St. John: Mass at 10 AM

Thurs., 28: Holy Innocents: Mass at 7 PM

Sun., 31 Dec.: Christmas 1: Masses at 9AM
& 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Mon., 1 Jan.: The Naming & Circumcision of
Jesus: Mass at 10 AM

Tues., 2 Jan.: St. Seraphim of Sarov:
Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 3 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sat., 6 Jan.: The Epiphany of Our Lord:
Mass at 11 AM

Sun., 7 Jan.: Epiphany 1: Baptism of Our Lord:
Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 9 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 10 Jan.: William Laud: Mass at 10 AM

Sat., 13 Jan.: St. Kentigern (Mungo):
Mass at 11 AM

Sun., 14 Jan.: Epiphany 2: Masses at 9AM
& 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 16 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 17 Jan.: St. Anthony of Egypt:
Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 21 Jan.: Epiphany 3: Masses at 9AM
& 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 23 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 24 Jan.: St. Francis de Sales:
Mass at 10 AM

Thurs., 25 Jan.: The Conversion of St. Paul:
Mass at 7 PM

Sun., 28 Jan.: Epiphany 4: Masses at 9AM
& 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 30 Jan.: Charles Stuart, King & Martyr:
Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 31 Jan.: Charles Mackenzie:
Mass at 10 AM

Diocesan Website:
www.brechin.anglican.org

FOOD CUPBOARD MINISTRY

We would like to thank all those who have already contributed items for the additional Christmas bag that we plan to hand out to our visitors on a Sunday before Christmas. We know that more items are yet to come and should anyone else feel that they would like to give something we are particularly looking for 100g bars of chocolate, packets of biscuits and tinned fruit. Please give any donations to Katie. We also want to thank all of our volunteers who come Sunday by Sunday to help in various ways at our Drop In. The support that they provide is invaluable.

Katie Clapson

BRING A POINSETTIA!

The poinsettia is a plant native to Mexico traditionally associated with Christmas. They are widely available at a modest cost as the festival approaches.

The association of the poinsettia with Christmas has to do with a Mexican legend. A little girl wanting to give a gift at the Lady Shrine in church on Christmas Eve could only present a handful of ugly, straggly green weeds, as she was very poor. On Christmas Day it was discovered that Our Lady had transformed her poor gift into the vibrant red plant we know today!

How about bringing a poinsettia with you when you come to church on Sunday morning, 24 Dec., so that we can incorporate poinsettias into our floral decorations for Christmas?

The deadline for the next issue of 'Crucis' is Sunday, 31 Dec. Please send any material to the Editor (the Rector) by that day. Thank you!

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. Mark Strange	Tel: 01463 237503 (office)
Diocesan Bishop	VACANT	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
Assisting Clergy	The Rev. George Greig	Tel: 01382 566709
Honorary Treasurer	Dr Craig Cassells	c/o the Rector
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Katie Clapson	c/o The Rector Tel: 01382 221785 vessecstsal@hotmail.co.uk
Lay Representative	Mrs. Katie Clapson	As above
Alt. Lay Representative	Mr. A. Lynch	
Protection of Vulnerable Groups Officer	Dr Kirsty Noltie	37 Hyndford Street, Dundee. DD2 1HX TEL: 07881 828534
People's Churchwarden	Mrs Muriel McKelvie	Tel: 01382 580065
Rector's Churchwarden	Mr Martin Andrews	Tel: 01382 223465 mhdeta@blueyonder.co.uk
Envelope and Gift Aid Secretary	Mrs J. Cassells	c/o the Rector
Sacristan	Mrs Evelyn Kelly	c/o the Rector
Flowers	Situation Vacant	
Cantor, Choirmaster & Webmaster	Dr Graeme Adamson	c/o the Rector

Magazine

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