

# CRUCIS

Magazine of St. Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church Dundee  
December 2018

"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...

On Tuesdays I go to ASDA Myrekirk and Morrison's to pick up groceries left there in shopping trolleys for our Food Cupboard. The givers are shoppers and staff, who are usually very generous. Sometimes the donations are even bagged up in shopping bags for ease of transport.

On a Tuesday recently I went into Morrison's as usual. The trolley was almost full. Right next to it was another trolley about half full. Provided by the staff for overspill, I thought, as has happened at this time of year before.

I began looking at what was in this second cart. It was all bagged up. Great, I thought. In the bags were mostly the usual things we need, but at the bottom of one bag was a joint of beef. What on earth was I going to do with that? How long had it been sitting there? Where could we store it?

Just then a man emerged from the nearby loo. He looked at me strangely and put his hands on his cart. I mumbled an apology and pointed to our regular cart, which I found at that moment surprisingly fascinating.

Things are sometimes not what they appear. Things are sometimes more than they appear.

One of perhaps a hundred babies was born on a particular night in Palestine long ago. It was the same as any birth, and likewise great joy and hope surrounded it. The spe-

cial reason for, and nature of, that particular birth was only known later. Things are sometimes more than they appear.

No-one could have guessed that God had become a human being that night in a normal way. Redemption had dawned, but the scene in the stable was probably lit by a small oil lamp. Happy visitors came and went, as is seldom uncommon with any new addition to a family. And yet....

Things are sometimes more than they appear.

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,  
*Fr. Clive*

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

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

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

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

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



### The Bartholomew Consort sings Brahms

At the beginning of November, the Bartholomew Consort was back on home territory in Oxford and I was delighted to be able to join this delightful group of singers to perform Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* (*A German Requiem*). The performance was in one of our favourite Oxford venues: St. Michael and All Angels' Church in Summertown (*picture above*). We gathered in the church in the mid-afternoon of All Souls' Day to begin rehearsals which would continue over the weekend culminating in the concert on Sunday evening. *Ein Deutsches Requiem* was chosen as a fitting work to sing as we come to the end of commemorations marking the passage of the First World War.

In the mid-nineteenth century, Brahms had been nursing the idea of composing a requiem for some years but it wasn't until 1866 when he was 33 that he began serious work on it. It is thought that Brahms may have written his requiem in memory of his mother who died in 1865 and whose death affected him greatly. It is equally possible that he had in mind his great friend and mentor, Robert Schumann, whose madness and tragic death had profoundly affected the young Brahms. Perhaps it was both. He completed the composition in 1867 with the exception of the fifth movement which he added later. In its incomplete form *Ein Deutsches Requiem* was first heard in Bremen Cathedral on Good Friday 1868. The final version (below) was performed the

following year at Leipzig's famous concert hall, the Gewandhaus.

### *Ein Deutsches Requiem* – Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)

1. Blessed are they that mourn
2. Behold, all flesh is as the grass
3. Lord, let me know mine end
4. How lovely are thy dwellings
5. Ye now have sorrow
6. For we have here no abiding city
7. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord

The work's title reflects Brahms' use of the Lutheran Bible rather than the customary Latin one. He compiled the text himself from both Old and New Testaments, and from the Apocrypha. It therefore has little in common with the conventional Requiem Mass. Brahms' stated intention was to write a requiem to comfort the living rather than one for the souls of the departed. Consequently the work focuses on faith in the Resurrection rather than fear of the Day of Judgement. Despite its unorthodox text, his requiem was immediately recognised as a masterpiece of exceptional vision and it finally confirmed Brahms' reputation as a composer of international stature.

The work is frequently performed with full orchestra but that would have put us somewhat over-budget! Luckily, less than a year after the work premiered, at the request of his publisher, Brahms created a version of





the score to be made available for chamber performance with piano accompaniment (four hands, one piano). This version of the work travelled to England for its British debut in London in 1871 and was sung with English text. Brahms himself conducted around thirty singers and two pianists at that event.

The Bartholomew Consort's version was very similar with one grand piano, two professional pianists (James Longford and Simon Over), and forty singers. However, we sang the work in its original German. One of our number, Esther Levin, sang the soprano solo and we were joined by professional baritone, Leo Selleck, who had the most beautifully resonant voice which suited the dramatic solo sections well. As always, we were under the distinguished Musical Directorship of JanJoost van Elburg from The Netherlands.

Although I felt I knew the *German Requiem* reasonably well having enjoyed listening to it and even hearing it live at the Edinburgh International Festival in 1979, I had not sung it previously and it turned out to have some tricky bass sections! A good few hours rehearsals ironed out the corners though and allowed me to acquit myself

reasonably well.

The work lasts just over the hour and we performed it with only one very brief interval. Being November the 4<sup>th</sup>, there were some fireworks being let off in close proximity to the church which weren't unduly noticeable but seemed to reach a crescendo around the time we took a break. We just waited a few minutes for the noise to subside before continuing the performance. Audience members commented after the concert that the fireworks added to the drama of the performance! There were also many positive remarks about the concert from those in the audience but the most telling came from one of the professional pianists who accompanied the singing. He said it was the most moving performance of the Brahms Requiem he had ever heard. Praise indeed for all involved.

My next trip south to join the Bartholomew Consort is in early March next year. The programme is yet to be decided but no doubt, as always, it will be interesting and challenging in equal measure.

*Graeme Adamson*



## **To All Congregations in the Scottish Episcopal Church**

It's my great pleasure to write to you about an important and long-standing partnership with a Scottish children's charity; one which is especially close to my heart. I write this not just on my own behalf but on behalf of the College of Bishops.

As you may know, Aberlour Childcare Trust, as it's known today, was established in 1875 by Canon Jupp, one of my predecessors as Rector of St Margaret's, Aberlour. It was originally The Aberlour Orphanage but moved away from that work to become one of the foremost providers of children's support and development in Scotland. I have seen first hand the work of Aberlour and have met with many of the young people they work with and care for. I'm proud to say that we, as a church, have an association with Aberlour.

Aberlour has developed over 40 specialised services around the country to support them. Aberlour continues to provide loving homes for children through residential and fostering services; they give babies a brighter future by building confidence in their parents; they offer support to make life easier for families where a child has a disability and they help parents to recover from drug and alcohol misuse, poor mental health and domestic abuse, so their children can thrive.

I believe it would be wonderful for our congregations to support such important work and that's why I'm suggesting we do so through our services this Christmas.

The staff at Aberlour have said that they would be delighted to visit your congregations if you would like to hear more about the work they do. Just give them a call on 01786 450 335 or email [hello@aberlour.org.uk](mailto:hello@aberlour.org.uk)

Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Mark Moray and Primus



## **VESTRY REPORT**

The Vestry would like to thank all those who attended our recent AGM and those who provided reports for it. Special thanks go to Mr J Cassells for once again producing the accounts, in the format required by OSCR, for our meeting.

Our Church Officers for the coming year are:

- Rector's Warden – Mr Martin Andrews
  - People's Warden – Mrs M McKelvie
  - Lay Representative – Mrs K Clapson
  - Alt. Lay Representative - Mrs D Caie
  - Vestry Members – Mrs N Cassells and Mr J Caithness
  - Vestry Secretary – Mrs K Clapson
- Treasurer – Dr C Cassells

If you have anything you would like to raise with the Vestry please see one of the above. Dr K Noltie continues as our PVG Officer.

Congregational thanks go to all who have agreed to take on these important roles in the life of our church family and please keep them all, along with your Rector, in prayer.

Katie Clapson, Vestry Secretary

## **FOOD CUPBOARD MINISTRY**

Donations continue to come in for our Food Cupboard for which we are very grateful. We are planning to hand out the extra Christmas bags to our visitors at our Drop In on Sunday Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> so if anyone has any specific donations for these bags it would be helpful to have them in by Sunday Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. Please give any items to Fr Clive or Katie and if anyone is able to help with the assembling process for these bags please let Fr Clive know by the same date.

## Some things every Christian should know about Christmas

- The Christmas (festive) season begins on 25<sup>th</sup> December and continues right through the New Year until at least 6<sup>th</sup> January. (It isn't from 1<sup>st</sup> November to Boxing Day, as the secular/commercial world seems to think.)
- The Christian New Year's Day is Advent Sunday (four weeks before Christmas Day). Therefore the birth of Christ is celebrated not at the end of the year but near the beginning, which, of course, makes more sense.
- The four weeks (Advent) running up to Christmas is supposed to be a period of reflection and fasting in preparation for the Nativity (therefore a *chocolate* Advent calendar is arguably a contradiction in terms).
- Although it is disputed, mince pies were speculated by some to represent little mangers, which might be appropriate, given that 'manger' comes from the Latin 'manducāre' = 'to chew', and that's what we do when we get one. (Remember that Jesus was laid in a manger, an animal's feeding trough, after he was born.) Meat used to be one of the ingredients but now only suet (beef fat) is mixed with the fruit.
- Christmas carols celebrate the birth of Jesus so, strictly speaking, they should be reserved for the Christmas season. There are special carols for the Advent season, so you should probably stick your fingers in your ears when you hear the wrong sort of carols being played as canned background music whilst shopping for Christmas presents in Advent.
- The British tradition of 'Father Christmas' has a different history from the American tradition of 'Santa Claus' (derived from the Dutch Sinta Klaas), however they are both secularised derivations of the fourth century Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, patron of children (whose festival is on 6<sup>th</sup> December). In modern times the effective transposition of 'Santa' from 6<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> December has provided an unfortunate opportunity for millions of people to avoid any thought or mention of Jesus Christ on His official birthday.
- The date of Christmas (the Feast of the Nativity) was decided upon by Pope Julius I deliberately to coincide with the Roman pagan winter festival of Saturnalia (and the Germanic winter festival of Yule), and it has thus absorbed, reinterpreted and therefore redeemed many pagan symbols and traditions. It is thought that Jesus was really born at a different time of the year – spring or summer – although nobody knows exactly when this was.
- The Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas at Epiphany, which is when we remember the wise men (probably Zoroastrian priests) visiting from the East. This is because it is when the kingship of Jesus was first acknowledged.

M. Andrews

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### CANTIONES SACRAE CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

A great annual treat on a new day: Saturday, 22nd December at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Graeme Adamson and from Dundee City Box Office.



*Massacre of the Holy Innocents*

### **Come Celebrate!**

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### **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.

Anne Farmer died in the wee hours of All Saints Day (1 Nov.) in Ninewells, attended by her daughters. She was 77 years old, and St. Salvador's was an important part of her whole life. Throughout those many years, Anne's contributions of time, money, and skill were faithful, constant and generous, but often unheralded. We are very grateful to her and will miss her sorely. The Requiem Mass on 12 November was the most impressively attended funeral at St. Salvador's in years – a reflection of Anne's wide number of Christian and other friends and her loving family. May she rest in peace.

*"Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away"*

## Kalendar

Sun., 2 Dec.: Advent 1: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 4 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 5 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sat., 8 Dec.: Conception of the BVM:  
Mass at 11 AM

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

Tues., 11 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 12 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 16 Dec.: Advent 3: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 18 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 19 Dec.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sat., 22 Dec.: Carols by Candlelight  
at 7.30 PM

Sun., 23 Dec.: Advent 4: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Mon., 24 Dec.: Christmas Eve: Mass  
at 11.30 PM

Tues., 25 Dec.: Christmas Day: Masses  
at 9 & 11 AM

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

Thurs., 27 Dec.: St. John: Mass at 7 PM

Fri., 28 Dec.: Holy Innocents: Mass at 7 PM

Sun., 30 Dec.: Christmas 1: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Sun., 6 Jan.: THE EPIPHANY: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

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

Wed., 9 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 13 Jan.: The Baptism of the Lord:  
Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Mon., 14 Jan.: St. Kentigern: Mass at 7 PM

Tues., 15 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 16 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 20 Jan.: Epiphany 2: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 22 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 23 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

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

Sun., 27 Jan.: Epiphany 3: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 29 Jan.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 30 Jan.: Charles Stuart:  
Mass at 10 AM

## Pre- Christmas Confessions

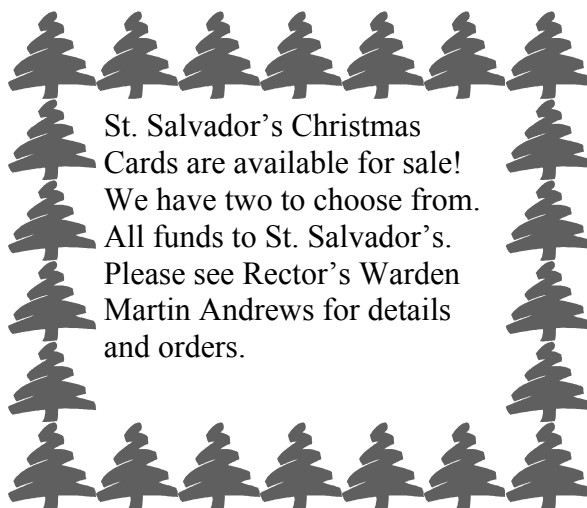
Confessions are available by appointment with the Rector.

**Diocesan Website:**  
**[www.brechin.anglican.org](http://www.brechin.anglican.org)**

Congratulations to Fr. George, who celebrated his 90th birthday at the beginning of this month.

We have decorated the Lady Chapel with large and medium-sized poinsettias for the last couple of years during the Christmas season. Donations of money or plants no later than Sunday, 23 Dec. would be much appreciated.

Fr. Clive and Katie would like to thank members of the congregation for your seasonal greetings and expressions of affection. We very much appreciate them, and look forward to serving you further in 2019.



St. Salvador's Christmas  
Cards are available for sale!  
We have two to choose from.  
All funds to St. Salvador's.  
Please see Rector's Warden  
Martin Andrews for details  
and orders.

During Advent we could do with donations of postage to meet our needs in the coming year.  
Thank you!

The deadline for the next issue of 'Crucis' is Sunday, 30 December. Please send any material to the Editor (the Rector) by that day. Thank you!

## St Salvador's Directory

**Web:** [www.stsalvadors.com](http://www.stsalvadors.com) Registered Charity SC010596 **E-mail:** [enquiries@stsalvadors.com](mailto: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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| Honorary Treasurer                      | Dr Craig Cassells          | c/o the Rector  |
| Honorary Secretary                      | Mrs Katie Clapson          | c/o The Rector<br>Tel: 01382 221785<br><a href="mailto:vessecstsal@hotmail.co.uk">vessecstsal@hotmail.co.uk</a>   |
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| Alt. Lay Representative                 | Mrs. Dolina Caie           |   |
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