

# CRUCIS

Magazine of St. Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church Dundee

February 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

## In the Beginning...

I've recently returned from my first trip to Portugal. Although I was there only a week – visiting a Portuguese friend from my undergraduate days who lives near Lisbon – I managed to pack in a whole lot of sightseeing.

Richard was a really splendid host. There was hardly a significant church, convent, monastery, or palace that we missed! Some sights were a combination of all four. The greatest of these was at Maфра – a huge complex that once combined functions as a royal residence, a convent, and an immense basilica (with SIX organs!). When I commented on its size and splendour, Richard said: "In northern Europe, kings showed off by building schools and universities. Here they built palaces and churches."

While my friend's observation doesn't bear really close scrutiny – after all, some of our own monarchs had their follies too, and were sometimes a good deal more devout – there was enough truth in what he said to get me thinking.

At the very centre of ancient Jerusalem sat the Temple. It was more than a place of worship. It too was a massive complex built by a king that combined political and religious functions. As with the royal palaces in Portugal, no expense was spared in its construction and furnishings. The Temple spoke of the power and prestige of its occupant – God, of course, but especially of its royal resident.



This month, at Candlemass (2 February), we recall the bringing of the Holy Infant to the Temple. The True God comes to His Temple. The True King takes up residence. "The True Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1: 9).

It is God's presence within that gives real value to everything that human beings make and do. Even in our large and splendidly decorated church, its real value is in the continuing Sacred Presence marked by a white sanctuary light, day in and day out. God's Presence among His People is our real reason for being here and for doing what we do.

The same can be said of each one of us. God intends that every human being should be His Throne and Temple, the light that enlightens others in a world of darkness.

With all best wishes,  
Fr. Clive



## **CANDLEMASS**

**Thursday, 2 February, 2017**

**Blessing of Candles  
Candlelight Procession  
Solemn Mass**

**Preacher: the Bishop**

**Music sung by  
CANTIONES SACRAE**

**Guest Organist:  
Mr. Tom Wilkinson,  
University Organist,  
St. Andrews**

Timely Humour for St. Valentine's Day

"I met a girl at a pub last night who said she would show me a good time. When we got outside she ran a hundred yards in 12 seconds."

Wife: "You don't like any of my relatives, do you?"

Husband: "That's not true. I really love your mother-in-law."

Best chat-up line: "Did you know that men with good memories make great lovers? I read it in an article on 4 February, 2006 at 6.40 PM."

"I once went on a date with a dolphin. We just clicked."

Woman: "I told him I wasn't going to change my surname after we're married. It's too old-fashioned."

Pal: "What did he say about that?"

Woman: "He said wearing an expensive engagement ring was old-fashioned too, but I didn't seem to mind that."

Best excuse for forgetting your spouse's birthday: "How do you expect me to remember your birthday when you don't look a day older than when we first met?"



### **Food Cupboard Ministry Report**

Thanks to generous donations of money and food items we were able to prepare 80 bags of Christmas treats to distribute at the Sunday afternoon Drop In on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>. We had an increased number of visitors at that session and we handed out 75 regular bags alongside 75 treat bags which were gratefully received. We were also able to share some festive refreshments including mince pies and Christmas biscuits.

On Christmas morning the Rector, Katie, Derek, Dode and Pernilla stayed after the 11am Christmas morning mass to have bags of groceries available if needed and we had 6 people who came by for help. We were able to give each one an additional Christmas treat bag as well.

On New Year's Day, thanks to committed volunteers we were able to offer a full Drop In session again which was much appreciated by those who came.

We have a number of people who are currently going through the volunteer recruitment procedure and they will join our team of enthusiastic and committed volunteers without whom our Food Cupboard Ministry would not be able to run as it does.

We are currently seeing between 50 and 60 people on a Sunday afternoon for a bag, refreshments, a social time and perhaps some information they might find helpful.

Over recent weeks we have been blessed with many bountiful donations of food items and some cash donations. We have received a cheque from Newport on Tay Church of Scotland as part of the proceeds given for their annual harvest appeal and a cash donation as well as food items from the Food Drive organised by Rotoract and BlackAdders solicitors. Customers at Morrisons have been very generous with donations to our shopping trolley there. Individuals, groups and congregations continue to give regularly and we are grateful for all

that we receive which enables us to help those in need who come to us on a Sunday afternoon or as a referral from an outside agency.

To all who support us in any way, a very big and heartfelt thank you.

*Katie Clapson*

### **W5: Who, What, When, Where, Why**

We can ask for God's forgiveness directly in prayer. Or the congregation may together confess their sins, and the celebrant may impart a general absolution. Or individuals may from time to time confess their sins privately to a bishop or priest and receive advice and absolution.

Private Confession and Absolution has had a long and interesting history of development. At first, sin after Baptism was unthinkable – which is why the early Church had so many adherents that remained unbaptised for so long! However, a system of confession to the community with penance and absolution was instituted by the second century to restore those whose sin had placed them outside the fellowship of the Church. Only one such lapse and return was allowed. Even after the fourth century and the adoption of Christianity by the Empire, with its flood of converts, the understanding of the process remained the same, even though the rigour was relaxed: Confession was for restoration to the Church, and, as a disciplinary procedure, was necessarily juridical, not pastoral.

The fourth century also saw the beginning of monasticism, with groups of hermits coming together under the guidance of a master in spiritual things. As part of their spiritual formation, the monks opened their hearts and lives to their spiritual guides, who would advise them. This was primarily a pastoral, and not a disciplinary, practise.

At some point in Christian history, these two aspects came together to give us the way sins are confessed privately today. It is both a restoration to the fellowship of the Church, while also being an opportunity for spiritual growth and pastoral care.



## VESTRY NEWS

On Jan 11<sup>th</sup> the Vestry met with Bishop Nigel as part of his ongoing pastoral oversight of our congregation. It had been two years since our last meeting with him and the Vestry wanted to update our Bishop on how life and ministry at St Salvador's has been developing.

We were able to share with him that

- our congregational giving has increased slightly and that we had a very successful Gift day
- we have some new members of the congregation
- we have a tenant for the Upper Hall
- the Food Cupboard ministry continues to grow and that we have a wide range of supporters and volunteers who help us minister to our neighbourhood in this way
- our Advent Bible Study went well and that we have added Evening Prayer on Sundays at 5pm and a very short service on Midday Prayer before the Drop in begins on Sunday afternoons
- our links with MIC and the Maxwell Centre are good and they are now able to refer people to the Food Bank (Trussell Trust) as well as offer com-

- puter support to the community
- the Community Garden is doing very well and has good links across the neighbourhood and with local schools
- the Rector is still voluntarily working full time on a part time stipend
- the church is open most Tuesday and Thursday mornings and people come in for prayer and to see our historic place of worship

The Rector spoke of the goodness of God which has enabled us to continue our ministries at St Salvador's with our small core of active members and which has provided us with some green shoots of growth.

Bishop Nigel encouraged us by saying that we are an efficient congregation making good use of our church plant and our links with the neighbourhood. He noted that we minister to a wide range of people who are connected in some way to the St Salvador's "campus" but not necessarily on a Sunday morning. He also encouraged us to look at our "unique selling points" which are our historic building, our form of worship and our Food Cupboard Ministry.

The Vestry is grateful to Bishop Nigel for his ongoing support for St Salvador's and for ministering at the Wednesday morning Eucharist whilst the Rector was on annual leave.

*Katie Clapson, Vestry Secretary*

A Sermon  
Preached by Fr. Clive  
On the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul,  
Wednesday, 25 January, 2017

*“All who heard [Paul] were amazed and said, ‘Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked [Jesus’] name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?’” Acts 9: 21*

“Conversion” is a combination of two Latin words that together mean “to turn around”. It indicates a complete change of direction. Undergoing a conversion is both a turning from and a turning toward. It involves an abrupt break with the past.

There can be few more famous conversions than that of St. Paul on the road to Damascus. A zealous Pharisee, he was on his way to the city with a warrant from Jerusalem to arrest Christians. Travelling along the road, he was suddenly overwhelmed by a vision of Christ. A week later, Paul was at the synagogue in Damascus proclaiming the Christian Gospel. It was a complete turn-around, and was one of the most important conversions in the history of the Church.

Although St. Paul’s life was forever changed by his conversion, there remained at least one consistency.

A devout Pharisee, St. Paul once described himself as “far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors” than many of his own age. Up to the moment of his conversion, he had been a scrupulous student of the Law and an avid keeper of religious rules. Why? Because he wanted to please God.

As a Christian, St. Paul continued to want to please God. However, he no longer did it by encouraging and even forcing others to obey God’s Law. Rather, St. Paul wanted to please God by growing in his understanding

of God’s love and proclaiming it to everyone.

In his encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus, St. Paul found himself confronted by the living expression of God’s love for him and for the whole world. He no longer needed to prove his love for God by keeping rules; in Jesus God had already proved His love for him by dying on a Cross. In his moment of conversion St. Paul knew he was loved. He at last came to love the One who loved him first.

In Jesus Christ, all God’s promises to Israel were fulfilled. God’s loving purpose for His Chosen People was revealed. It had a face and a Name. It bore the full weight of human suffering and sin in order to liberate God’s Children forever. And not only was God’s love as expressed in Jesus Christ rejected, bruised, and killed on a Cross for the whole world, but it happened for Paul. And for you. And for me. We love because God loved us first.

Only someone deeply motivated by God’s love could have written as St. Paul did in 1 Corinthians 13: “If I speak in the tongues of mortals and angels but do not have love... I am nothing.”

Let the same be said of us. May we all know how much God loves us, and, in that knowledge, may we seek to please Him more and more.



## Come Celebrate!

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### **St. Bride of Kildare, Abbess**

**(1 February)**

Bride (also known as Brigid) was a contemporary of St Patrick who founded a religious community at Kildare in Ireland in the fifth century. Although there is little historically accurate information about her life, her influence on the Church of her day and the lingering affection for her among the Gaels of Ireland and western Scotland are testimonies to her leadership, holiness and spiritual power. Bride is thought to have died at about the year 525, and is regarded as a second patron saint of Ireland.

### **The Presentation of the Lord**

**(2 February)**

This day marks the completion of forty days since the birth of Jesus, when Mary and Joseph took the Infant to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving for the firstborn son and to meet the requirements of the Law for Mary's purification after childbirth. The Holy Child is acclaimed by Simeon as 'the light to lighten the Gentiles'. The image of Christ as the Light has led to the celebration of light countering darkness, with candles often taking a central place in the observance of this festival.

### **Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries**

**(14 February)**

Cyril and Methodius were brothers, born in Thessalonika in the ninth century, and educated at Constantinople. Having the ability to speak several languages, including Slavonic – a language not yet written down – Cyril invented an alphabet and they translated the Bible and liturgical texts into the language of the Slavs among whom they

were working as missionaries in central Europe. Cyril died at Rome on 14 Feb. in the year 869. Methodius was made a bishop and spent many years continuing to preach the Gospel in central Europe, despite resistance and hostility. He died in the year 885.

### **Thomas Bray, Priest and Missionary**

**(15 February)**

Born in Shropshire in 1656, educated at Oxford and ordained, Thomas Bray was chosen by the Bishop of London to help organise the church in Maryland. Due to an extended delay in his departure due to legal complications, Bray organised a system of free parish libraries, initially for use in the American colonies, but later also instituted in England. This led him to found the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge (SPCK) in 1698. He finally set sail for Maryland in 1699, but upon arrival there, realised that he could better promote his work from England. On his return, Bray founded the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG). These two societies that he founded have been crucial to Anglican educational and missionary work worldwide for 300 years. Thomas Bray (picture below) died on 15 Feb. in the year 1730.



## Kalendar

Wed., 1 Feb.: St. Bride: Mass  
at 10 AM  
Thurs., 2 Feb.: CANDLEMASS:  
Blessing of Candles, Procession &  
Mass at 7 PM  
Sun., 5 Feb.: Epiphany 5: Masses  
at 9 & 11 AM; EP at 5 PM  
Tues., 7 Feb.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM  
Wed., 8 Feb.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM  
Sun., 12 Feb.: Epiphany 6: Masses  
at 9 & 11 AM; EP at 5 PM  
Tues., 14 Feb.: Ss. Cyril & Metho-  
dius: Mass at 7 PM  
Wed., 15 Feb.: Thomas Bray: Mass  
at 10 AM  
Sun., 19 Feb.: Epiphany 7: Masses  
at 9 & 11 AM; EP at 5 PM  
Tues., 21 Feb.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM  
Wed., 22 Feb.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM  
Sun., 26 Feb.: Epiphany 8: Masses  
at 9 & 11 AM; EP at 5 PM  
Tues., 28 Feb.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM  
  
Wed., 1 Mar.: ASH WEDNESDAY:  
Mass with Imposition of Ashes at 10  
AM & 7 PM  
Sun., 5 Mar.: Lent 1: Masses at 9 &  
11 AM; Stations of the Cross at 10  
AM; EP at 5 PM  
Tues., 7 Mar.: St. Perpetua & Com-  
panions: Mass at 7 PM  
Wed., 8 Mar.: St. Duthac: Mass  
at 10 AM  
Sun., 12 Mar.: Lent 2: Masses at  
9 & 11 AM; Stations of the Cross  
at 10 AM; EP at 5 PM  
Tues., 14 Mar.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM  
Wed., 15 Mar.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM  
Fri., 17 Mar.: St. Patrick: Mass  
at 7 PM

Sun., 19 Mar.: Lent 3: Masses at  
9 & 11 AM; Stations of the Cross  
at 10 AM; EP at 5 PM  
Mon., 20 Mar.: St. Joseph: Mass  
at NOON  
Tues., 21 Mar.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM  
Wed., 22 Mar.: Thomas Ken: Mass  
at 10 AM  
Sat., 25 Mar.: THE ANNUNCIA-  
TION: Mass at 11 AM  
Sun., 26 Mar.: Lent 4: Masses at  
9 & 11 AM; Stations of the Cross  
at 10 AM; EP at 5 PM  
Tues., 28 Mar.: The Aberdeen Doc-  
tors: Mass at 7 PM  
Wed., 29 Mar.: John Keble: Mass  
at 10 AM

Private Confession is available by appoint-  
ment with Fr. Clive on Shrove Tuesday (28  
Feb.) and throughout the season of Lent. If  
you have not made a private Confession  
before, Fr. Clive will help you prepare.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

There are still a few Annual Subscriptions  
that have yet to be renewed. Please let Fr.  
Clive know if you intend continuing your  
subscription by filling in a renewal form  
and including your remittance.

Thank you!

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

The deadline for the next issue of  
'Crucis' is Sunday, 19 February  
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)

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. David Chillingworth	Tel: 01738 643000 (office)
Diocesan Bishop	The Right Rev. Dr. N. Peyton	Tel: 01382 562 244 (office)
Rector	The Rev. Clive Clapson SSC	St Salvador's Rectory 9 Minard Crescent DUNDEE DD3 6LH Tel: 01382 221785 <a href="mailto:father.clive@blueyonder.co.uk">father.clive@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
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 <a href="mailto:vessecstsal@hotmail.co.uk">vessecstsal@hotmail.co.uk</a>
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 <a href="mailto:mhdeta@blueyonder.co.uk">mhdeta@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
Envelope and Gift Aid Secretary	Mrs J. Cassells	c/o the Rector
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## Magazine

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