

CRUCIS

Magazine of St. Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church Dundee

March 2019

"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...

Looking for God. There are some Christians who seem to think that is what they should be doing. They say they're on a voyage of self-discovery that will help them find God. If they find God in themselves, what then? Is the journey over? Of course not: the self is always evolving. Looking for God in that way is a voyage with no end in sight but self-knowledge – which is no bad thing, I suppose, but does it actually ever meet God? Or is looking for God in oneself a rather pointless exercise? Might it even be considered a kind of idolatry?

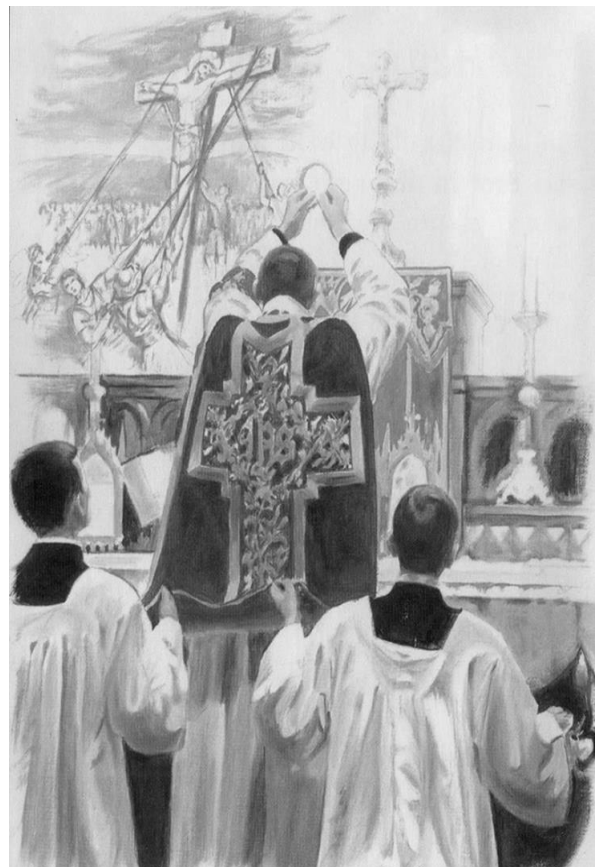
Surely the most important thing for the Christian – and everyone, for that matter – is to understand that it is God who is looking for us. Coming among us to find us, He took our flesh upon Himself, and lived, died, rose from death, and ascended in that flesh. We are the only part of God's Creation united to Him forever.

And He is still looking for each one of us individually. It is we who get lost all the time. By laziness. By distraction. By sin. Christ is the Father's means by which His lost children are gathered up and returned to Him. The search is relentless because its motivation is love. He will go anywhere, even into the little hells where we have become imprisoned, alone and afraid. Christ comes to us again and again, pointing to His Cross, and saying: "See what I have done for you? Do you not care? Would you not much rather be found than be lost? I have something much better for you than this!"

We need not to be looking FOR God, but rather we need to be looking AT God. He's looking for us. We need only to turn around (which is what the word 'conversion' means) to see Him. Worship and service keep us facing in the right direction and fix our eyes on Him. And what we discover is love, pure love, coming to embrace us again.

With every blessing in Christ,

Fr. Clive



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2019

“Come – Everything is Ready”

The World Day of Prayer is held annually on the first Friday in March and this year’s service has been put together by the women of Slovenia for use in churches across the globe. The theme that they have chosen to reflect upon in the service is the invitation of Jesus that all should “Come – Everything Is Ready”.

The hymns and spoken material are grounded in the story that Jesus told of the rich man who gave a great banquet and when his invited guests declined to attend for different reasons sent his servants out to the streets to find others to come in and eat with him. A community formed around that table and yet there was still more room for guests. The question we are asked to ponder upon is who is missing from the table in our community? Who could we invite in to share in the banquet of God’s grace which is freely available for all?

Our local area service is to be held on Friday **Mar 8th** at Coldside Parish Church, Main Street, Dundee at 7pm. (Please note that this is a week later than the actual WDP.) Everyone is welcome to come to this Ecumenical service to offer praise and thanksgiving, and to proclaim the Kingdom of Love.

For more information about Slovenia and the work of the WDP, Scotland the website is www.wdpScotland.org.uk



The flag of Slovenia.

Slovenia

Some brief facts about Slovenia

- It gained its independence from Yugoslavia on June 27th 1991
- The capital is Ljubljana
- The currency is the Euro
- The official language is Slovene with Hungarian and Italian
- The national flower is the red carnation
- The first World Day of Prayer in Slovenia was held in 2000

Information provided by Slovenian World Day of Prayer Committee © Tanjar Povsnar

Lenten Study Group

On Wednesdays during Lent there will be a study group meeting in the kitchen over a cup of coffee/tea after the 10 AM Mass.

This year we will be looking at a number of modern Christian poets and their work, including R. S. Thomas, Jack Clemo, and Charles Causley.

The group will start on Wed., 13th March. All welcome!

CANDLEMASS 2019

Our annual festival on Saturday, 2 Feb., was memorable for a good liturgy, good music, a number of visitors, and a very deep sense of God’s presence with us.

Bishop Andrew was Celebrant and Preacher. His sermon will be remembered as particularly encouraging and supportive.

Many thanks to Chris our organist and Cantiones. The Byrd four part Mass setting was beautiful.

Many thanks also for the hospitality after!

Food and Flix

During Lent Fr. Clive will be offering a light meal followed by a film and discussion on Wednesday evenings at the Rectory. The first meeting will be at 6 PM on Wed., 13 March. Space is limited to five places, plus the Rector, so please let him know if you want to commit yourself to the series.

Wed., 13 March: "The Way" (2010), starring Martin Sheen. A bereaved father takes up the pilgrimage to Santiago Compostella that his son began.

Wed., 20 March: "The Fisher King" (1991), starring Jeff Bridges and Robin Williams. Dark, slightly surreal, and often humorous, the film is an exploration of brokenness, healing, guilt, and redemption.

Wed., 27 March: "Babette's Feast" (1987). In the 19th century a puritanical community in remote Denmark, stressing the life of the "spirit" over the life of the "flesh", finds a more rounded Christian life through the gift of a mysterious Frenchwoman. (Danish & French with English sub-titles)

Wed., 3 April: "The Apostle" (1997), starring Robert Duvall. The mysterious workings of guilt and grace are explored in the life and ministry of a deeply flawed Southern preacher.

Wed., 10 April: "Black Robe" (1991), starring Lothaire Bluteau. In Canada in the 17th century, the mission of a young French priest deep into the alien spiritual and physical hinterland of his would-be converts tells a story of courage, sacrifice, misunderstanding, and tragedy.



Visiting Bishop

On Sunday 10 February, we were delighted to welcome the Right Rev. Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester, as guest Celebrant and Preacher at our 11 AM Mass. It was nice to see a number of visitors in the congregation, including our own Bishop Ted!

FOOD CUPBOARD MINISTRY

The Food Cupboard continues to provide food parcels and snacks on a Sunday afternoon at our hour long Drop In. We have averaged about 65 bags given out weekly since Christmas but on a recent Sunday we distributed 80 bags along with other donated items including bread, crisps and potatoes. As you can see our numbers are beginning to rise again, and we are seeing more new faces week by week. Many are staying to chat over soup, tea, coffee and snacks. The homemade flapjack goes down a treat with everyone.

Thanks to the Positive Steps initiative we are also able to hand out feminine hygiene products as required. This is part of a wider project to help to combat female "period poverty".

We continue to be extremely grateful to all those who donate time, money and goods to support our Drop In and an especial mention should be made of our Sunday afternoon bag packing teams who make life easier for the Monday morning crew.

Katie Clapson

A Sermon
Preached by the Rector on Sunday, 3 February, 2019

“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.” 1 Corinthians 13: 1

Do you think Jesus ever preached any bad sermons? Maybe when he was just starting out? Early in my ministry I preached in the church where I was baptised on the southern coast of England. Looking back, it was embarrassing. I think I made much more sense bawling my lungs out at my baptism! Yup... I think I've preached some real stinkers in my time!

In the Gospel today, we hear how Jesus' first sermon in the synagogue certainly got a reaction! But was it a bad sermon? I wonder what people mean by a “good sermon”. Does it express a point of view we agree with? Is it well delivered? Does a good sermon make people we don't like squirm? Does a good sermon make us feel guilty (which some people seem to think is the main purpose of sermons)? What is a “good sermon”?

As part of the Liturgy of the Word, the sermon is an encounter with God's Word. This makes preaching an awesome responsibility, when **the preacher's** words are used to communicate something of **God's** Word. The preacher has the incredible responsibility of identifying the words he says with the Word everyone has just heard in the Gospel. Perhaps the sermon is such a sublime, mystical combination of the divine and the human that any comments, complimentary or not, even from the preacher himself, on the sermon, may be somehow inappropriate. I don't know. Maybe what matters most is not whether it is “a good sermon”, but whether or not everyone can see and hear the Word of God, Jesus Christ, in those inevitably inadequate, humanly-formed words.

Now, in the latter part of my ministry, I like to hold a small cross, preferably a crucifix, when I'm preaching a sermon. It reminds me to “preach Christ, and Him crucified”. To preach Christ – not myself and my ideas, but Christ as He has showed Himself to me. And to preach Christ crucified – that is, the expression of God's tough, sacrificial love for us all.

When I'm listening to a sermon, I ask myself two questions: “Does this preacher love God” and “Does this preacher love us”? If the answer to BOTH questions is “yes”, then I'm listening to a good sermon. Other questions follow from those two questions, such as: Has the preacher's love been tested, and how? Does he love God and us enough to speak the truth? Does his love inspire us to love?

One of the things I have picked up along the way from really good preachers is that there is something poetic about preaching. Like poets, good preachers must love to use words, not for their own sake, but to communicate heart to heart. Good sermons are not bible studies or theology lectures, although many may include elements of both. Rather, the best sermons communicate or awaken that which excites and motivates the imagination and the heart. Yes, preaching does share something with poetry. And, like some poems, or any other kind of art - visual, musical or verbal - preaching can arouse negative passions too, as the story about Jesus today demonstrates.

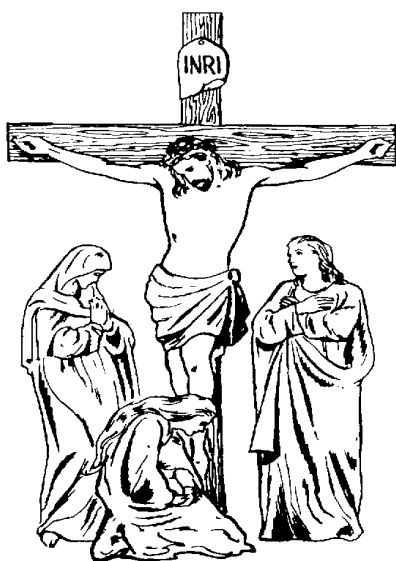
The hearers of Jesus in the synagogue in His hometown rejected Him. What they saw was a carpenter, someone who could fix broken ploughs. They had heard that this carpenter had become a faith healer who could fix broken minds and bodies. But He wouldn't perform for them. They didn't recognise in the carpenter-turned-preacher

God's Word presented through a human mind, a human body, and human words. Jesus was Himself a kind of incarnate sermon – God's Word presented through human flesh. Love personified. The crowd thought they knew Him but they didn't. Love reveals Him more than knowledge, and they did not love Him.

St. Paul said: "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." He was a good preacher. St. Paul knew that a "good sermon" is an expression of God's Love, just as Jesus is an expression of love for God and for us. Teaching and affirming hearers may have a place, but it is love that is the key to a good sermon, otherwise it's all just words and noise. A good sermon must originate in love and inspire to love, and those who love the Word of God will recognise it as a good sermon.

Stations of the Cross

On Sundays during Lent we will follow the Stations of the Cross at 10 AM, concluding with a simple form of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All welcome!



VESTRY NEWS

The Vestry met in February to deal with the business of our church. Among the items discussed were

- Thanks to all those who had helped in anyway with our Christmas services, Bishop Andrew's visit on Jan 13th and our Candle-mass service.
- The need for a revised Candle-mass booklet for next year's service
- Various things needing to be done on the church building and minor repairs already effected
- A new diocesan fee structure for services e.g. weddings and funerals
- Minor repairs to the Rectory
- The ongoing work of the Food Cupboard
- Plans for the Lenten season
- Reports of Wardens, Treasurer and PVG Officer

Please keep your Vestry, Wardens and the Rector in your prayers as they continue to serve our Church family. *KEC*

Now Listen Carefully!

We have a new feature on our website (www.stsalvadors.com). Perhaps you were unable to get to a church service, or don't live in the area? A selection of Fr Clive's best extempore homilies (short sermons) preached during Evening Prayer on Sundays will soon be available for you to listen to on your computer or smart phone at any time simply by clicking on the links. The first one is up now (*The Scandal of Particularity*, recorded on 10 June 2018, Trinity 2). Why not try it out? We shall upload more in due course.

Martin Andrews

Come Celebrate!

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St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland (transferred to 18 March)

The son of a clerical family, Patrick was born among the British peoples living in northwestern England and southwestern Scotland in about 385. He was taken captive by raiders and sold as a slave in Ireland when a young boy. There, he worked as a herdsman and his faith was quickened in adversity. Finally escaping, he went to continental Europe, where he became a priest, and, eventually a bishop for missionary work in Ireland. Indefatigable in preaching the faith throughout the country and in organising the Church there, despite opposition, Patrick died in about 461, and was buried at Downpatrick.

St Joseph of Nazareth (19 March)

A simple village carpenter, Joseph, of the lineage of King David, was the husband of the blessed Virgin Mary and guardian of the child Jesus. According to tradition, he was older than Mary, and is often depicted as such in art. It is therefore possible that Joseph may have already had children in a previous marriage, which may account for the brothers and sisters of Jesus mentioned in the New Testament.

St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne (20 March)

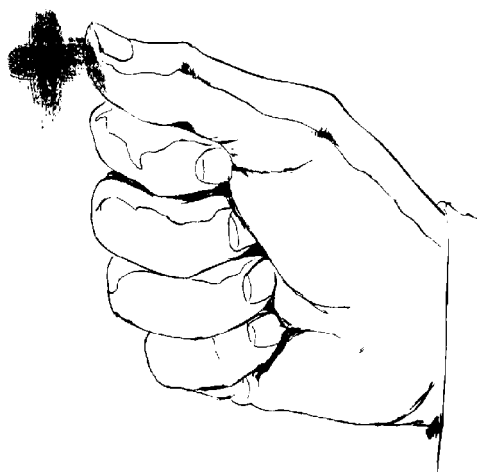
Cuthbert was probably born in the Scottish lowlands around the year 640. At the age of eight a prophetic remark from a playmate turned his mind to sober and godly thoughts, and his upbringing as a shepherd gave him ample time for prayer. One night he saw in the sky a dazzling light and angels carrying a soul up to heaven, and resolved to dedicate his life to God. Some years later Cuthbert came to Melrose Ab-

bey asking to be admitted as a monk. It was from here that he began his missionary work, which he continued from Lindisfarne when he became abbot there. Consecrated bishop in 685, he remained a tireless traveller and preacher all over his diocese, returning to spend intervals of time as a hermit on the Farne Islands. After only a short time as bishop, however, Cuthbert sensed his strength failing and resigned his office, dying on Farne in the company of a few of his monks.

The Annunciation of the Lord

(25 March)

Since at least the fourth century, the Church has celebrated on this festival the great day of decision, when the blessed Virgin Mary accepted the role that God had chosen for her in His plan of redemption. From that moment the Holy Child was conceived within her, and the Virgin became the bearer of God the Son, known as 'Theotokos' in the East and translated as 'Mother of God' in the West.



Masses on ASH WEDNESDAY (6 March) will be at 10 AM and 7 PM in the Lady Chapel. Both services will feature an extended Penitential Rite, with the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes. All are invited to mark the beginning of Lent this way.

Kalendar

Sun., 3 Mar.: Epiphany 8: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM
Tues., 5 Mar.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 6 Mar.: ASH WEDNESDAY: Masses with Imposition of Ashes at 10 AM & 7 PM
Sun., 10 Mar.: Lent 1: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM; EP at 5 PM
Tues., 12 Mar.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 13 Mar.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 17 Mar.: Lent 2: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM; EP at 5 PM
Mon., 18 Mar.: St. Patrick: Mass at 7 PM
Tues., 19 Mar.: St. Joseph: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 20 Mar.: St. Cuthbert: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 24 Mar.: Lent 3: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM; EP at 5 PM
Mon., 25 Mar.: THE ANNUNCIATION: Mass at 7 PM: Rector's 39th anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood
Tues., 26 Mar.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 27 Mar.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 31 Mar.: Lent 4: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM; EP at 5 PM
Tues., 2 Apr.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 3 Apr.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 7 Apr.: Lent 5: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM; EP at 5 PM
Tues., 9 Apr.: Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 10 Apr.: William Law: Mass at 10 AM
Sun., 14 Apr.: Palm Sunday: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; Stations of the Cross at 10 AM; EP at 5 PM
Mon., 15 Apr.: Monday in Holy Week: Mass at 7 PM
Tues., 16 Apr.: Tuesday in Holy Week: Mass at 7 PM
Wed., 17 Apr.: Wednesday in Holy Week: Mass at 10 AM; Tenebrae at 7 PM

Thurs., 18 Apr.: Maundy Thursday: Liturgy of the Lord's Supper and Stripping of the Altar at 7 PM, followed by Watch until midnight.

Fri., 19 Apr.: Good Friday: Mattins & Litany at 9 AM; Solemn Liturgy at 3 PM and Stations of the Cross at 7 PM

Sat., 20 Apr.: Holy Saturday: Mattins & Ante Communion at 9 AM; The Great Vigil & First Mass of Easter at 9 PM

Sun., 21 Apr.: Easter Day: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; No EP tonight

Mon., 22 Apr.: Easter Monday: Mass at 7 PM

Tues., 23 Apr.: Easter Tuesday: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 24 Apr.: Easter Wednesday: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 28 Apr.: Easter 2: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Mon., 29 Apr.: St. Mark: Mass at 7 PM

Tues., 30 Apr.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Diocesan Website:
www.brechin.anglican.org

Diocesan Synod

This is to be held on Saturday Mar 9th at St Ninian's Church, Dundee and your Lay Representative is Katie Clapson. Stay tuned for the report from this gathering in next month's magazine!!

Father Clive will be available to hear private Confessions on Shrove Tuesday (5 March) and at any time by appointment during Lent.

The deadline for the next issue of 'Crucis' is Sunday, 24 March. 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

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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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