

CRUCIS

Magazine of St. Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church Dundee

May 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...

I've only been to Paris once, and I liked it very much. Notre Dame was, of course, on our list of places to visit. I was unimpressed. Despite what its builders I am sure intended, I was left feeling uninspired. It's a beautiful and historic national monument, like Westminster Abbey, but I wasn't very aware of Jesus being there.

The fire at Notre Dame was a tragedy for France and for anyone in the world who appreciates art, architecture, and history. I hope it is rebuilt with care. But whether it will ever be anything other than a landmark remains to be seen. The timing of the fire, so close to Holy Week and Easter, certainly focussed the minds of those of us with religious sensibilities. Thankfully, there were no deaths or injuries. There was a palpable sense of loss nonetheless. However, the very real distress of onlookers – even the French clergy there – appeared to me to be cultural, not religious.

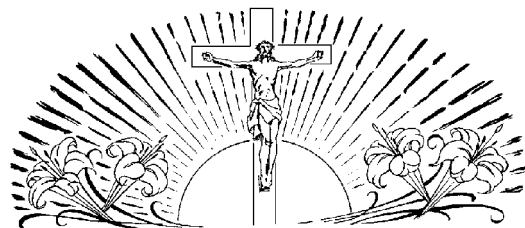
Also at this holiest time in the Christian Year, three rather ugly churches were bombed by terrorists in far-off Sri Lanka. Perhaps as many as 300 were killed and about the same number wounded. The distress of onlookers around the world was not merely cultural. It was not an artistic tragedy. The horror was visceral. But Jesus was truly there. Why do I say that?

There is a big difference between A church and THE Church.

As beautiful as any historic landmark church building is, if Jesus is not there, it is just a monument to Him, a footprint of where He once stood. The Church is not a building, but a living community where Jesus is alive. The attack on the Sri Lankan churches was an assault on His living Body. Those killed and injured shared in Christ's suffering at the hands of those who hate Him, who want rid of Him from the world. It is ironic and yet fitting that their violent hatred was exercised at precisely the time the Church recalls Christ's sacrifice, at Easter and at Mass.

Our Sri Lankan brothers and sisters killed and wounded are martyrs; those who bombed the churches are not. In essence, Christianity is about sacrifice and love: God for us and us for God. We endure all things because we believe all things – not least the loving, enduring and life-giving power of God through the Crucified and Risen Christ in His Church.

Fr. Clive



VESTRY NEWS

The Vestry met in April and discussed the following

- Ongoing repairs at the Church and the Rectory
- Work needed to clear the guttering, for which a donation has been received, with many thanks
- Our increased quota
- The reports from the Treasurer, PVG Officer and the Wardens

The Vestry wishes to record thanks to all those who helped in any way with the preparations for our Holy Week and Easter services and to all those who took part in them. It was lovely to have so many servers in the Sanctuary.

Thank you also to the cleaning crew who did a sterling job on Holy Saturday to clean the church for our Easter celebrations. Your hard work was much appreciated.

Katie Clapson, Vestry Secretary



Words you never thought you would hear at St Salvador's...

Due to the combination of the heating being on for the main Holy Week services and a remarkably warm Easter weekend, a number of people at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday were heard to say “**My goodness! It’s hot in here**”. These words were followed by the removal of coats and jackets and the opening of doors!! Needless to say the heating was switched off pronto!

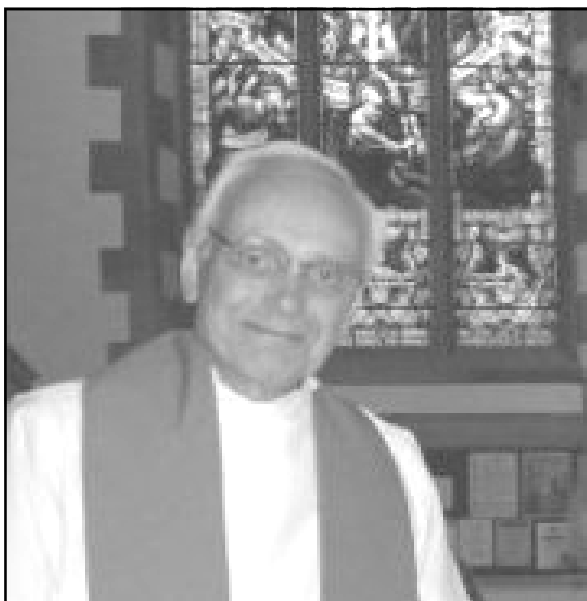
This seems a good opportunity to thank everyone who supports the heating fund week by week. Your donations help towards keeping the church heated throughout the winter months.

Please continue to pop your contribution into the glass receptacle on the coffee/tea table.

FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS

Once again we have been amazed by the generous donations of foodstuffs from the local supermarket trolleys, including one at the Co-op in Barnhill, and from local congregations and individuals. Thanks to thoughtful donations of Easter eggs we were able to give one to each of our visitors on Easter Sunday, with enough left over for the following Sunday.

Our team of volunteers works very hard on a Sunday afternoon to ensure that all the refreshments are ready for our 1.15pm start and that all the items to be handed out are suitably organised and ready when the doors open to our visitors. All the help that we receive is very much appreciated and it takes a team effort to ensure that our visitors are able to access refreshments, the wee bags of groceries and whatever else has been donated. We are grateful to have volunteers who can “signpost” people to other available help. When they are not available, our notice boards posted with relevant information are very useful.



We are sorry to hear of the recent death of a much-loved figure in our Diocese. The youngest of four brothers, the Rev. Canon Frederick Hugh Magee was born in 1933, the son of an English mother and an American father. His first years were spent in China, where his parents were missionaries. Returning to Britain in 1937, Hugh was subsequently educated in England and the United States. A graduate of Yale University, he later returned to Britain to train for ordination at Westcott House, Cambridge. He was ordained Deacon in 1959 and Priest in 1960. During the course of a long and colourful ministry, Canon Magee served parishes in England, Scotland, and in the Diocese of Spokane (USA). Latterly he served as an Honorary Assistant at St. Paul's Cathedral Dundee, where he had been Chaplain from 1972-79. Canon Magee covered services here at St. Salvador's at various times over the years and was supportive in a number of other ways. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for the consolation of his widow Yvonne.

May he rest in peace.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR HUGH - The memorial service for Hugh will be on Saturday, 18 May, at 3 pm, at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, with reception following in the church

"Here we have [the disciples] who failed to stand up to the Jews when Christ was alive; and yet no sooner was Christ dead and buried, than they take on the whole world. How can this be unless Christ rose from the dead, talked with them and put fresh heart into them? If it were not so, would they not have said to themselves: 'What is all this? If Christ did not have the strength to save himself, how can he protect us? He did not defend himself when he was alive, so will he reach out his hand to defend us now that he is dead? When he was alive he did not conquer a single nation, so how shall we convince the entire world by speaking his name?'

Would it not have been foolish to conceive of such an enterprise, let alone actually to do it? Surely it is obvious that if the disciples had not seen Jesus risen from the dead and received clear evidence of his power, they would never have risked such a gamble."

St. John Chrysostom (347-407)



A Sermon preached by the Rector
on the Wednesday in Holy Week,
17 April, 2019

“Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.” Hebrews 12: 3

George Bernard Shaw once observed that religion in modern times must make itself cheap to be noticed, and the cheaper it makes itself, the less people think of it. Shaw was an atheist; I am not. But I do think that it is becoming depressingly obvious that he was right.

Throughout the generations the liberal element in our church has always tended to play to the secular gallery. They have always wanted desperately to be noticed by their non-believing contemporaries. The best of them may see this as evangelism; others seem like they just need to be noticed. In the West the liberal element dominates most of the mainline churches, our church included.

The Church has always taken over non-Christian ideas and practises to infuse them with new meaning that demonstrates some aspect of the Gospel. What’s happening nowadays is something like the reverse: bringing into the Church non-Christian attitudes and ideas that change the Gospel to make it more acceptable to those outside. At the same time, age-old symbols of sacred Christian meaning are being watered down and misused to get the attention of the indifferent masses. Ashes are liberally conferred on Ash Wednesday not to the penitent, but to anyone who wants to get into the spirit of the day. Palm crosses are widely distributed on Palm Sunday, even to the indifferent, as some kind of token. Shoes are shined in public places on Maundy Thursday as a nod to Our Lord’s washing of the disciples’ feet. And so on and so on.

These solemn, empty gestures invite contempt and cheapen our religion. They are attention-grabbing gimmicks, and their importance even to Christians is increasingly reduced. These vacuous, powerless symbols are now just something cute to mark the changes in the seasons. And we Christians are far too complicit in this. We are at serious risk of offering “cheap grace”.

The phrase "cheap grace" was first coined by German theologian and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book “The Cost of Discipleship” in 1937. He was reacting to a compliant church in the face of the Nazi threat. Bonhoeffer said that cheap grace was "the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline. Communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ."

Grace is what God gives us to unite us with Himself. It consists of numerous and varied gifts throughout our lives, and grace is free. But it isn’t cheap. It costs a lot, but the cost isn’t paid by us. God sent His only Son to die as a sacrifice for our sins. Jesus endured the pain and the shame of the cross to offer us salvation by grace through faith in Him. Grace flows to us freely from the Cross on a tide of sweat, blood, tears, pain, death, and sacrificial love. There’s nothing cheap about that.

So how can we avoid peddling cheap grace? Root everything we say and do in the Cross of Jesus Christ. It is the sign and means of human redemption and transformation. Its cost is the painful, costly sacrifice of self. Without the Cross there is no gospel, just attention-grabbing gimmicks offering grace that isn’t grace at all.



W5: Who, What, When, Where, Why

Ascension Day is forty days after Easter Sunday, and always falls on a Thursday. The celebration of this feast is of great antiquity. Although no ancient documentary evidence of it exists, the nun Aetheria speaks of the vigil of the Ascension and of the feast itself, as they were kept in the Holy Land when she visited there on pilgrimage between 381 and 384. St. Augustine says that observing Ascension Day is of apostolic origin, and he speaks of it in a way that shows it was the universal practice of the Church long before his time (5th century). It may be that prior to the 5th century the fact narrated in the Gospels was commemorated with the feasts of Easter or Pentecost, as the Ascension festival has a strong link thematically with both. Representations of Christ's going up into heaven are found in Christian art dating as early as the 5th century.

This year Ascension Day falls on Thursday, 30 May, and we will have our celebration at 7 PM.

Lawyers and Doctors

*Two respectable professions square off!
Taken from the transcripts of trials in the
United States...*

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 PM

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No..

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

Come Celebrate!

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Ss. Philip and James, Apostles (1 May)

Philip and James merely appear on the list of the twelve apostles in the first three gospels, but in St John's Gospel, Philip has a more prominent role. James is said to be the son of Alphaeus, and is often referred to as James the Less or James the Younger. The two apostles are celebrated on the same day because the church in Rome, where their relics were laid to rest, was dedicated on this day in the year 560.

Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer

(8 May)

On this day in 1373, when she was thirty years old and suffering from what was considered to be a terminal illness, a woman of Norwich, whose own name is unrecorded, experienced a series of sixteen visions, which revealed aspects of the love of God. Following her recovery, she spent the next twenty years of her life pondering their meaning and recorded her conclusions in what became the first book written by a woman in English, *The Revelations of Divine Love*. At an unknown point in her life, she became an anchoress attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich, and it was by this name of Julian that she became known to later generations. She died around the year 1417.

St Matthias, Apostle (14 May)

In the choosing of Matthias to replace the traitor Judas, we can see that the author of the Acts of the Apostles differs from St Paul in his understanding of apostleship. The number had to be restored so that they might sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. It was conditional that they had to have been with Jesus during his

earthly ministry and witnesses to the resurrection. The point of being chosen by lot, rather than by election, indicated the choice was God's alone.

St Helena, Protector of the Holy Places

(21 May)

The Empress Helena came to power in the Roman Empire when her son Constantine became emperor in the year 306. Although she had previously been abandoned by her husband, her son raised her to a position of great honour. As Helena was a Christian she gave her support to their cause and, in the year 326, she made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There she provided the funds to build a basilica on the Mount of Olives and another at Bethlehem. According to fourth-century historians, she discovered the Cross on which Christ was crucified. In the Eastern Church, she is commemorated on this day, together with her son Constantine.

The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth (31 May)

The celebration of this feast first occurred among the Franciscans in 1263, but quickly spread throughout Europe. Since it recalls an incident clearly described in Scripture, the churches of the Reformation three hundred years later were less inclined to proscribe it than they were other Marian feasts, particularly as it was the occasion for the blessed Virgin to sing her great hymn of praise the Magnificat. The story of the Visitation emphasises the connection between the old covenant and the new, and how the former clearly points to Jesus as the promised Messiah.

At 10 AM on Sundays during this month, Fr. Clive will conduct a series of short classes on Christian basics for our newcomers and any regulars who might like a refresher. Come with questions!

Kalendar

Wed., 1 May: SS. Philip & James:

Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 5 May: Easter 3: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 7 May: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 8 May: Julian of Norwich:

Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 12 May: Easter 4: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 14 May: St. Matthias: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 15 May: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 19 May: Easter 5: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 21 May: St. Helena: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 22 May: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 26 May: Easter 6: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 28 May: Feria: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 29 May: Feria: Mass at 10 AM

Thurs., 30 May: THE ASCENSION:

Mass at 7 PM

Fri., 31 May: The Visitation of Our Lady:

Mass at 7 PM

Sun., 2 June: Easter 7: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

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

Wed., 5 June: St. Boniface of Mainz:

Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 9 June: PENTECOST: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Mon. 10 June: St. Columba (transferred):

Mass at 7 PM

Tues., 11 June: St. Barnabas: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 12 June: John Skinner & Bp. John Skinner: Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 16 June: Trinity Sunday: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Tues., 18 June: Bernard Mizeki:

Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 19 June: Corpus Christi (anticipated): Mass at 10 AM

Sun., 23 June: Trinity 1: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Mon., 24 June: Birth of St. John the Baptist:

Mass at 7 PM

Tues., 25 June: St. Moluag: Mass at 7 PM

Wed., 26 June: Robert Leighton:

Mass at 10 AM

Sat., 29 June: SS. Peter & Paul:

Mass at 11 AM

Sun., 30 June: Trinity 2: Masses at 9AM & 11AM; EP at 5 PM

Condolences to Alan Lockhart on the death of his mother Ruby (91) on 19 April. The funeral was at the Crem on Tues., 30 April.

Best wishes to Ben Warner and Katie Jobling, two of our Food Cupboard volunteers, on the beginning of married life together on 4 May, 2019..

Davina Millar RIP

Members of long-standing may recall the Millar family, who were once very active members of St. Salvador's. Vi Millar died recently in Ninewells at the age of 79. Her late husband Robert had been a server at St. Salvador's for years. The Rector was able to see Vi and pray with her at the request of the family before she died. *Rest Eternal.*

The Paschal Candle this year has been given by Evelyn Kelly in memory of Ann Farmer.

Many thanks to Evelyn Rodger, Janette Coutts, Phyllis McIntosh, and Bishop Ted Luscombe for donations toward our Easter flowers, and to Kirstie Noltie for the loan of houseplants for our Garden of Repose on Maundy Thursday.

Diocesan Website:

www.brechin.anglican.org

The deadline for the next issue of 'Crucis' is Sunday, 26 May. Please send any material to the Editor (the Rector) by that day. Thank you!

St Salvador's Directory

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The SEC is part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

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