



# Crucis



The Magazine of St Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church

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## December 2022/January 2023

*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

### Message from Fr David

Dear Friends in Christ,

A priest friend of mine said to me last year that he enjoyed the anticipation of Advent more than the arrival of Christmas. That seemed to me to tap into what C.S. Lewis said about our desire and longing for heaven, and the fullness of communion with God, while we are still on this earth. All the earthly experiences we have of joy in family and friendship, the awesome beauty of nature, the powerful sense of God's presence in prayer and worship; all these are but inklings of the glorious communion with God and all the Saints which await us in Heaven.



some people who have struggled to find their way back to church post Covid. There's no judgement in that. I understand the lingering effects on people's wellbeing and patterns of behaviour. My Church of Scotland colleagues in Invergowrie tell me that their congregation is about half what it was pre-Covid. Loss of regular worshippers is widespread in churches, so we're actually doing quite well here at St Salvador's in holding on to our members. However, the war in Ukraine, the cost of living and energy crises, and then the death of our late Queen, which we all felt, have all had an effect on morale. Times are tough and we need to acknowledge that and take it into account as we reflect on the past year and also think about our future. We have sustained losses in our congregational life. So, let's take a moment to pray for those who have died during this past year.

### JESUS CAME on the First Christmas Day



Advent is a time of waiting and expectation and Christmas is a time for celebrating the arrival of the Christ Child. And yet, at Christmas and after, the fullness of our redemption still awaits completion. So perhaps an Advent expectation is our natural state in this world. As our Advent Eucharistic Prayer puts it, *In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined, sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.*

### JESUS WILL COME at the Last Day



We remember before God:

### JESUS COMES in the Blessed Sacrament



Mary Andrews

Nathan John Bellshaw

Elizabeth Thomson Bailey

Alex Caithness

Catherine Caithness

Raymond Caithness

Maisie Farrell

Carole Muir

As we approach the straddling of the Old and New Year, it seems prudent to publish a double issue of Crucis for December and January and use it to update everyone (especially those not at the AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> November) on how things are going.

As individual people, as a congregation, as a country, as a global community, we've not had to go looking for our troubles. Covid took a toll on so many things and we're still feeling the effects of that. There are

*Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace, and rise in glory. Amen.*

Among all those challenges and losses, there have still been things for which to be thankful.

I am thankful for all of you, continuing to be faithful in prayer and worship and, indeed, for being willing to have a bit of fun along the way. I'm grateful to all who take an active role in worship in the altar party

and in musicianship, to Martin, Craig, William, George, Danny, Graeme and Chris. It's also been wonderful to have Fr Gary with us despite the many other responsibilities he's had to take on because of the situation in Arbroath and Auchmithie.

In our worship, the standouts this past year were the Chamber Choir of Strathclyde University, Directed by Alan Tavener, who sang with us on Palm Sunday. It was a splendid Mass which merely whetted my appetite for building up the musical and liturgical life of St Salvador's which are part of our strength. I confess this has been more difficult than I had anticipated, and I've hit a few metaphorical brick walls, but I continue trying to build it up and to seek out musicians willing to support us. Another standout was our celebration of Corpus Christi in June and our procession with the Blessed Sacrament in the area outside our church. It was lovely to welcome Fr Stephen Graham, who preached, together with staff and pupils from Glenalmond College. We have definitely begun a relationship with the college, and we are looking to build on that recognising, of course, that they are a distance away and their own programme of activities is very busy. Our link with them is entirely appropriate. James Nicolson, our first Rector, was a student at Glenalmond, which was then a seminary, training clergy for the Scottish Episcopal Church. They recently gave us a donation of over £700 towards the Food Cupboard. God bless them.

We applied for funding from the Provincial Renewal and Recovery Fund in order to install equipment which would enable us to record and stream worship and other events. This was granted, and I am very grateful to Ewan Roberts and Graeme Adamson who have done a power of work on this. Now, St Salvador's Services are uploaded to YouTube, the aim being that, if we have a presence on the web, it's another way of letting people know we are here, what we offer, and that they are welcome to join us. To view these Services, use this link:

<https://stsalvadors.com/home/streamed-services/>

In October, we rebooted the Drop-in aspect of the Food Cupboard, which had been reduced to a one-at-a-time file-through the porch by Covid. Now, we welcome people to the Hall, and they can get some hot soup, hot drinks, a chat, and a heat. The MAXwell Centre make the soup for us and I'm very pleased to be working in ever closer partnership with them. They provided catering for our Corpus Christi celebration, and Alison, their manager, read a lesson. I'm very grateful to all the volunteers to who support

the Drop-in, especially William, Martin, Muriel, Craig, and all those from other churches who help.

Our Drop-in is on the local, Dundee City Council, map of cosy spaces for folk in need of a heat and a blether, and we were visited last week by a television researcher and producer who had heard about our work and that of the MAXwell Centre. They are going to make a documentary showing what life is really like in local communities in the UK and they may film in Dundee. The important thing is that they discovered our work with the vulnerable online and wanted to find out more. I received an email from the researcher this week saying, and I quote, "I just wanted to drop you an email to thank you for having us at St Salvador's. It was so great to meet you and it really is inspiring work you and your amazing team are doing. We are currently in discussions with our seniors to pick our Scottish Location, so if it does turn out to be Dundee, we would love to stay in touch come and visit you guys again." Fickle is the media, but we will see! Dr Neil Merrilees, who volunteers at the Drop-in, may also guide medical students to volunteer with us. He is involved in medical education at the University and he and I developed some training for the students when I was still an NHS chaplain. So, there are signs of growth in our work with vulnerable people for which we can give thanks.

I am very grateful to the Head Teacher at Dens Road Primary School for welcoming me into the school. I have visited the school many times in the past year, and I will be there on Friday to speak about St Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland.

In terms of the business and admin. side, I am grateful to the Vestry for supporting all the work that goes on behind the scenes. The architect who began his survey of the buildings in January is yet to submit his final report, but we have had updates which have helped and informed our decision-making process. We engaged Graham+Sibbald to update and renegotiate the leases we have with the MAXwell Centre and Club83. That work is ongoing. We also engaged an estate agent to advise us on letting out the Rectory which has been, mostly, empty since Fr Clive retired. There's quite a lot involved in such an enterprise both in terms of registration with the Council and compliance with various regulations as well as getting the house in a better state of décor. All of this takes time, money, and personnel. I needn't point out to you how short we are of money and personnel, so a bit of patience is required as we move all of this forward. It goes without saying that our energy bills have gone way up, as have our insurance costs. However, getting

the leases on a more realistic and secure footing, as well as renting the Rectory, will help with these costs.

Let me reiterate what I said last year, it's difficult in a much-reduced congregation, compared to your memories of days gone by, not to feel somewhat downcast. But we can't go back.

We have an opportunity now to remember that it's not all about us and not everything depends on us. It's our duty to do our part to align ourselves with the mission of God in giving people a glimpse of heaven on earth in church. That feeds the soul. But we also need to reach out to the people beyond these walls and do our bit to look after them in real and grounded ways. That feeds the soul and the body. The two aspects of heavenly glory and human service make a powerful combination. We must leave the rest to God himself and trust that he will accept our offering and make of it something wonderful. I hope you feel, on the basis of what I've shared this morning, that there have been real signs of growth in our worship, mission, ministry, and stewardship over the past year which we can build on as we continue into the future.

I thank you all for being part of this congregation and for your contribution to our common good, the common good of our neighbours, and our collective witness to God and the Church. I believe we can move into another year with hope and optimism.

Bless you all. *Oremus pro invicem!*

Let us pray for one another! Fr David  
Tel: 07311 070277 david.gordon@brechin.anglican.org

## Prayer for Advent

*Stir up our hearts, O Lord, we beseech thee, to prepare the way of thine only begotten Son: so that when he cometh we may be found watching, and serve thee with a pure and ready will: through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## Services in December 2022

<b>Sun 4</b>	<b>Advent II</b>	<b>Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 7	St Ambrose	Low Mass 10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 11</b>	<b>Advent III</b>	<b>Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 14	St John of the Cross	Low Mass 10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 18</b>	<b>Advent IV</b>	<b>Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 21	Feria	Low Mass 10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 28	St Stephen	Low Mass 10.00 a.m.

## Advent/Christmas Event

All are welcome to a String Quartet Concert in the church on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 p.m.

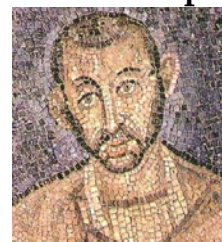
## Prayer for Christmas

*O Gracious Father, who sent not thy Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved: Fulfil the good tidings of thine angel and bring great joy to all people through the nativity of him who is the Prince of Peace; to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be glory in the highest, now and for evermore.*

## Services in January 2023

<b>Sun 1</b>	<b>Naming of Jesus</b>	<b>Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 4	St Seraphim (tr)	Low Mass 10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 8</b>	<b>Epiphany (tr)</b>	<b>Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 11	St Kentigern (ant)	Low Mass 10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 15</b>	<b>Epiphany II</b>	<b>Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 18	Confession of Peter	Low Mass 10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 22</b>	<b>Epiphany III</b>	<b>Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 25	Conversion of Paul	Low Mass 10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 29</b>	<b>Epiphany IV</b>	<b>Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.</b>

## Saints' & Special Days – December/January



### Wed., 7 December – St Ambrose of Milan, Bishop & Teacher

Born in Trier in 339, St Ambrose was of an aristocratic family and was governor of northern Italy, with his headquarters in Milan. Whilst trying to

bring peace to the Christian community, with Arianism and orthodoxy each trying to gain the election of its candidate as bishop, St Ambrose, known and respected by all, though not yet baptised, found himself urged to accept the role of bishop himself. He was consecrated on this day in the year 374. St Ambrose proved his worth, becoming a teacher and preacher of great renown, promoting the essential divinity of Christ. He died in April 397 and is the patron saint of Milan and beekeepers.

### Wed., 14 Dec. – St John of the Cross, Pr. & Teacher

Born into an impoverished noble family near Avila in Spain in 1542, St John was brought up by his widowed mother and went to a charity school. He worked as a nurse and received further education from the Jesuits before entering the Carmelite order when he was twenty-one. Having distinguished himself at Salamanca University, he was ordained in 1567 and met St Teresa of Avila soon afterwards. Small of stature, he made a great impression on her and she persuaded him to help with her reform of the Carmelites. His labours brought him into conflict with the religious authorities, and he was even imprisoned for a period, yet these experiences prompted some of his finest poetry and mystical writing. He described



the 'dark night of the soul' as it is purified in its approach towards God. After ten years as superior to several different houses, he again fell out of favour and was banished to Andalusia in southern Spain, where he died after a severe illness on this day in 1591.

**S. STEPHEN Monday, 26 December – St Stephen, Deacon and M.**

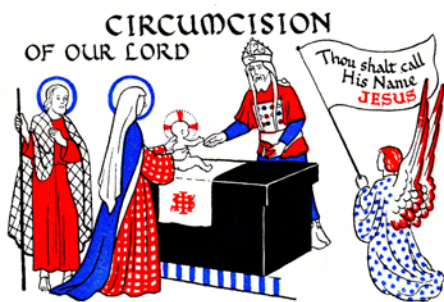


**FIRST MARTYR**  
A Martyr in Will & Deed

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'.

**Sun., 1 Jan. – Naming of Jesus**

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.



**Monday, 2 January – St Seraphim of Sarov, Monk**  
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'.



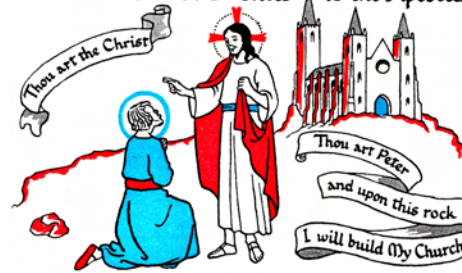
**Friday, 6 January – Epiphany of the Lord**  
Originally, this very ancient feast was celebrated on this day as the premier Christian celebration of the Incarnation, including both the Nativity of Christ and His Baptism. At some point, Christians in the West began to celebrate the

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.

**Friday, 13 January – St Kentigern (Mungo), Bp**

Also known affectionately as Mungo, which means 'beloved', Kentigern belonged to the Welsh-speaking Britons who lived in southwestern Scotland in the seventh century. He is said to have been the grandson of a British prince, and to have attended a monastic school at Culross. Kentigern became a missionary to the Britons living in Strathclyde and was consecrated their bishop. During a period of persecution, he may have fled to Wales, but Kentigern eventually returned to Strathclyde and died in 603. He is the patron saint of the city of Glasgow, and his tomb is in St Mungo's Cathedral there.

**S. PETER Chief of the Apostles Wed., 18 Jan. – The Confession of Peter**



The beginning of the ministry of the Apostle Peter at Rome has been commemorated

in that city from ancient times. This feast, known as the 'Chair of Peter', is a reminder of the chair or cathedra on which a bishop sits to preside and to teach. The traditional readings for the festival have long included Peter's acclamation of Jesus as the Messiah. In modern times, today marks the beginning of a week of prayer for Christian unity. Peter's confession of faith reminds us that we are united together and with him in proclaiming Christ as the 'Son of the living God'.

**CONVERSION OF S. PAUL Wednesday, 25 January – Conversion of Paul**



This feast recalls the dramatic conversion of the anti-Christian zealot Saul and his calling by Christ to become an apostle. It is one of the pivotal moments in Christian history, so great was the impact this particular convert was to have on the course of the gospel's progress. Christians have celebrated the feast of Paul's conversion since the sixth century, but it became a universal celebration of the Church in the twelfth century. In modern times, this festival rounds off the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

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