



Crucis



The Magazine of St Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church

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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

September 2025

Editorial

Saint Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great is said to have travelled to the Holy land in the years 326 to 328. A temple to Venus had been built over the site of the Holy Sepulchre. She had this torn down and during the subsequent excavation the three crosses used at the crucifixion of Jesus and the two thieves were discovered. Jesus' cross may have had the titulus (label) still on it (or near it) with his name, though other accounts suggest that the identity of the True Cross was confirmed after it healed a sick woman. This discovery was called the Invention of the True Cross (I should say here that 'invention' in this case means 'finding' and not 'manufacturing'!). Incidentally I have seen convincing photographs of a wooden titulus that is claimed to be the actual one that Herod had made, so it is possible that at least part of the True Cross still exists.

Whatever the reality of those interesting stories we now commemorate them on Holy Cross Day, 14th September, combining the finding of the True Cross, the dedication of churches built by Emperor Constantine on that site and on Mount Calvary, and the elevation of the True Cross at Hagia Sophia in Constantinople in AD 629 by Emperor Heraclius after being 'rescued' from the Sasanian Persians who conquered Jerusalem in AD 614.

Coincidentally, our own Church of St Salvador (or 'Holy Saviour') was consecrated on 14th September 151 years ago, which means that Holy Cross day is also our Patronal Festival.

Last year we celebrated our 150th anniversary with a special choral High Mass. To continue for another 150 years requires current and following generations to discover here for themselves the True meaning of the Cross – that being the possibility of a *new and redeemed life* for us all.

Martin Andrews (Churchwarden)

HOLY CROSS Day Emperor Heraclius taking off his robes before carrying the Cross



Most drawings © Enid M. Chadwick
Some information sourced from Wikipedia

Services in September

Wed 3	St Gregory the Great	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
Sun 7	Trinity XII	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 10	No service – coffee meet in kitchen		
Sun 14	Holy Cross	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 17	St Hildegard of Bingen	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
Sun 21	St Matthew	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 24	St Adamnan of Iona (tr)	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
Sun 28	Trinity XV	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.

Services in October

Wed 1	Michael & all Angels (tr)	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
Sun 5	Trinity XVI	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.

A lay-led service may replace Mass if a priest is not available.

Prayer for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

God our Father, in obedience to You, Your only Son accepted death on the Cross for the salvation of mankind. We acknowledge the mystery of the Cross on earth. May we receive the gift of redemption in heaven. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Saints' and Special Days for September



British Library and Wikipedia

Wed., 3rd Sep. – St Gregory the Great, Bp & T.

Born about 540, Gregory was Prefect of Rome when he renounced the world and entered a monastery about 575. He was ordained deacon, and sent on a papal mission to Constantinople from 580 to 585. He became Pope in 590. It was the time of the barbarian attacks on Rome; he cared for the poor and refugees, making peace with the barbarians, sent missionaries to England. His writings are extensive, particularly the commentaries on Scripture. His liturgical work has been influential even in modern times. As Pope, he styled himself 'Servant of the servants of God' – a title which typified his ministry and personality. With his breadth of interests, knowledge and skills, and with so many achievements, Gregory is considered one of the greatest of Popes. He died in the year 604.

Sunday, 14th September – Holy Cross Day

The cross on which our Lord was crucified has become the universal sign of Christianity, replacing the fish symbol of the early church. After the end of persecution early in the fourth century, pilgrims began to travel to Jerusalem to visit and pray at places associated with the earthly life of Jesus. St Helena, mother of the emperor, was a Christian and, whilst overseeing excavations in the city, is said to have uncovered a cross, which many believed to be the Cross of Christ. A basilica was built on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and dedicated on this day in the year 335.

Wed., 17th Sep. – St Hildegard of Bingen, Abbess

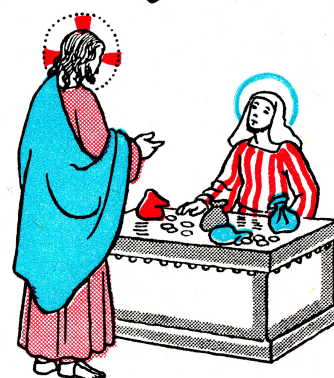
Hildegard was born in 1098 in Bockelheim in Germany. From her earliest years she had a powerful, visionary life, becoming a nun at the age of eighteen. She was much influenced by her foster mother, Jutta, who had set up a community and whom she succeeded as abbess in 1136. Her visions of light, which she described as 'the reflection of the Living Light', deepened her understanding of God and

creation, sin and redemption. They were, however, accompanied by repeated illness and physical weakness. About twenty years later, she moved her sisters to a new abbey at Bingen. She travelled much in the Rhineland, founding a daughter house and influencing many, including the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa. She was a pastor and teacher, seeing herself as a 'feather on the breath of God'. She wrote three visionary works, a natural history and a medical compendium. Hildegard died on this day in the year 1179.

Sun., 21st Sep. – St Matthew, Ap. & Evangelist

Matthew was a tax collector, born at Capernaum, called by Jesus, for whom he left everything and turned to a new life. His Gospel was written in Hebrew originally, for Jewish Christians. Tradition tells that he preached in the East and was martyred there.

S. MATTHEW
called by Our Lord



Tuesday, 23rd Sep. – St Adamnan of Iona, Abbot

Adamnan, ninth Abbot of Iona, was born in County Donegal about the year 624, a relation of St Columba, whose biography he wrote. As Abbot of Iona, he travelled widely in evangelistic endeavours and on political missions. He was concerned to bridge the gap between Roman and Celtic traditions and travelled between Scotland and England in negotiation. He himself accepted the Roman customs, but met with strong resistance from his own community. Thereafter he went back to Ireland, returning to Iona just before his death on this day in the year 704.

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