



# Crucis



The Magazine of St Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church

St Salvador Street, Dundee DD3 7EW E-mail: saintsalmadors@gmail.com Web: www.stsalvadors.com

*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

**December 2025 / January 2026**

## Editorial

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November Fr Michael Turner, our celebrant at Sung Mass, lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath. There are five candles in the wreath, three violet, one rose and one white. The violet ones reflect the liturgical colour of the season, representing the penitential mood that is appropriate for the period of time when we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Saviour.

Rose (or pink) represents the third Sunday in Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday (meaning *Rejoice*) acknowledging the breakthrough of joy and gladness that is inevitably caused by the nearness of Jesus' birth.

White, of course, celebrates the birth of Jesus itself.

The Advent season marks the beginning of a new Church's year, providing one of the reasons why we celebrate the birth of Christ in December, which is of course at the end of the calendar year. This overlap of secular and religious traditions can be confusing. While the secular Western world celebrates the New Year, we are still in the midst of the Christmas season (hence the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' the period of Christmas Day to the Feast of the Epiphany).

Epiphany (Greek *epipháneia*), is a word meaning 'manifestation' or 'appearance', and in the Christian context the term has been applied to the birth of Christ, the visit of the magi, all of Jesus' childhood events and even his adult baptism by John the Baptist. It has also been used to refer to Jesus' appearance after the resurrection and as a reference to his Second Coming.

The Feast of the Epiphany, 6<sup>th</sup> January (Julian calendar), is the Eastern Orthodox Church's time for celebrating the Birth of Christ. In the West, 6<sup>th</sup> January (Gregorian calendar), Epiphany commemorates the visit of the magi (the Three Wise Men) who followed the star to Bethlehem



to venerate Jesus, which is how we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany in our church.

Some have suggested that *all* Christians should celebrate the Birth of Christ at Epiphany, to separate it from the secular feast that Christmas has become in recent times. The thought of being able to buy my Christmas presents in the January sales does have some appeal, but given that an important part of our ministry is to bear witness to the Good News and bring it to the general population, tacitly encouraging a full-blown reversion to the Roman Saturnalia would, I think, perhaps not be such a good idea!

However we each celebrate the coming of our Saviour, may it be full of hope, joy and prayer, as we look to the new year, religious and secular.

Martin Andrews (Churchwarden)

## 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 December

Wed 3	St Andrew (tr)	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 7</b>	<b>Advent II (Bible Sunday)</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 10	Feria	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 14</b>	<b>Advent III (Gaudete)</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 17	Feria	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 21</b>	<b>Advent IV</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 24	Christmas Eve	No service	
Thu 25	Christmas Day	No service	
<b>Sun 28</b>	<b>First Sunday of Christmas The Holy Family</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 31	John Wycliffe	No service	

If a priest is not available, a lay-led service may replace Mass.

## Saints' and Special Days for December

**Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November – St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland** (transferred to Wed. because of clash with Advent Sunday. See Nov. Crucis.)

**Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> December – John Wycliffe** (c. 1328 – 31 Dec. 1384) an English scholastic philosopher, Christian reformer, Catholic priest, and theology professor at Oxford University. He is traditionally believed to have advocated for or made a vernacular translation of the Vulgate Bible into Middle English, though recent scholarship has minimised the extent of his involvement. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, he became an influential dissident within the Catholic priesthood and his ideas are often considered important predecessors to Protestantism. His political-theological theory of dominion meant the church was not allowed to own property or have ecclesiastic courts, and men in mortal sin were neither entitled to exercise authority, nor to own property. Wycliffe insisted on the radical poverty of all clergy. Wikipedia

## Services in January 2026

<b>Sun 4</b>	<b>Epiphany (ant)</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 7	Feria	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 11</b>	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 14	St Hilary of Poitiers	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 18</b>	<b>Epiphany II</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 21	St Agnes	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
<b>Sun 25</b>	<b>Epiphany III</b>	<b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>
Wed 28	St Thomas Aquinas	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.

If a priest is not available, a lay-led service may replace Mass.

## Saints' and Special Days for January

### Mon., 6<sup>th</sup> January – The 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 Jan. – '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.



### Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January – The Baptism of the Lord

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, or Theophany, is the [feast day](#) commemorating the [baptism of Jesus](#) in the [Jordan River](#) by [John the Baptist](#). Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on [Epiphany](#), which commemorates the coming of the [Magi](#), the baptism of Christ, and the [wedding at Cana](#).

Over time in the West, however, the celebration of the baptism of the Lord came to be kept as a distinct feast from Epiphany. It is celebrated in the [Catholic Church](#) as well as the [Anglican](#) and [Lutheran](#) Churches on the first Sunday following The Epiphany of Our Lord (6 January). Some [Lutheran](#) churches celebrate it on the Sunday before [Lent](#), or [Quinquagesima](#).



Wed., 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. – St Hilary of Poitiers, Bp & T.

**S. HILARY**  
wrote many books



Hilary was born at Poitiers in about the year 315 into a pagan family and was well-educated, becoming proficient in both Latin and Greek. After extensive personal study he was baptised at the age of 30, becoming bishop of his city shortly afterwards, in 350.

Immediately he was caught up in the Arian controversy on the side of those defending the true divinity of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God. His learning and oratorical skills made him a strong champion of orthodoxy and helped to achieve the Church's eventual victory over Arianism. Despite his reputation as a sharp and indefatigable opponent in controversy, Hilary was known as a kind and gentle friend. He died in the year 367.

Wednesday, 21 January – St Agnes, Martyr

**S. AGNES**  
put to  
death at  
13



Agnes is one of the most well-known and widely venerated of the early Christian martyrs in Rome, perhaps because of the expression of mature resilience and sheer bravery remarkable in a girl so young. Just 13 years old, Agnes is

believed to have died in the last major Roman persecution under the emperor Diocletian, in the year 304, and her feast has long been celebrated on this day. Her name means 'a lamb'.

Wed., 28<sup>th</sup> January – St Thomas Aquinas, Teacher

Thomas Aquinas has been described as the greatest thinker and teacher of the medieval Church. Born near Aquino, in Italy, in about 1225, he came from a noble family, and was educated first by the Benedictines at Monte Cassino and then at the University of Naples.



Against his family's wishes, he became a Dominican friar while in Naples in 1244. His profound theological wisdom and capacity to impart this, as well in sermons as in hymns, along with his gentleness of spirit, earned him the title 'the Angelic Doctor'. He died in 1274.

### Extracts from the Chairman's AGM report

At the beginning of January we sadly lost Janette Coutts, a long-standing and valuable member of St Salvador's. She will be missed by all who knew her.

On Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> February we were delighted to welcome to St Salvador's the RSCM Scottish Voices, who joined us for a Choral Evensong with over 80 people attending, including the choir.

On 19<sup>th</sup> February (with the Bishop's permission) a Coptic Orthodox funeral service was held in St Salvador's, which I attended. They made a generous donation to our funds.

Fr Andrew Murphy was kind enough to come up from Brighton twice to cover services on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 19<sup>th</sup> April (Holy Saturday) and 20<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Sunday).

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July, William Scotland's drumming group Drumdee provided an excellent performance of African style drumming, and even roped in several members of the audience to play along with some of the drums. A retiring collection helped with our expenses.

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August I attended the diocesan Net Zero Roadshow in the Cathedral, which was more interesting than I thought it would be.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September I attended Joe Morrow's talk in the Cathedral all about his experiences during the Royal Funeral in his duties as Lord Lyon King of Arms.

Open Doors Days this year were on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September. We had about 50 visitors, and thanks especially to Alison for helping with this.

We had one baptism this year, on 5<sup>th</sup> October, that of Daniel Attique, and we are delighted to welcome him and his parents Danish and Nida to our church family.

Fr Gary Clink has been invaluable throughout the year, and has supported us whenever his work has allowed for it.

Thanks also to Chris Bragg, who has covered approximately half our Sunday services, with the occasional help of his daughter Harriet.

Special thanks go to Fr Michael Turner who, almost immediately after retiring from his four charges in the north of the Diocese, has chosen to come and support us. Now, with Fr Michael and Fr Gary we should have a priest to cover for most Sundays, and I hope this helps to encourage more people to fill the pews.

The Rectory took a lot longer than expected to refurbish, but was finally completed and put on the market. There have been a number of viewings but it is not yet sold, and we are relying on that to pay off some loans and also to purchase a flat for the use of an otherwise self-funding clergyman to come and serve St Salvador's. We viewed a suitable flat in June, and are hoping it is still available when we manage to sell the Rectory.

As Lay Representative for this church I attended the Diocesan Synods on 1<sup>st</sup> March and 25<sup>th</sup> October of this year. There was also a special Synod meeting online on 14<sup>th</sup> August to clear up a couple of minor technical points.

The numbers attending our Food Cupboard drop-in are fairly stable around the mid-40s at present. Every time we begin to run out of resources, new ones for the Food Cupboard seem to emerge. The organisation Faith in Community has been very supportive and is looking into ways we can spend less money and receive more goods instead (especially as we have now almost run out of funds). We have also been continuing to receive regular donations from the people I mentioned earlier, and also considerable donations from two dog trainers, Kenny Spottiswoode and his wife. They and their colleagues have been enormously generous with their bi-weekly donations of groceries. From time to time we receive offers of help from potential volunteers, although not all of them have followed through and we could always do with more. My objective with the Food Cupboard is for it to be able to function even if no church people are available, although we are a long way from there at the moment.

Thanks to all the loyal servers, William, George, Danish, and helpers at the Sunday drop-in.

Thanks to all who have donated to the church and drop-in especially to Holy Trinity Church, Monifieth, Mary Magdalene's Church, Coldside Church, the Quakers, and ASDA supermarket, and of course to all of you who contribute to our collection bag every Sunday.

Having said all that, I am not sure what kind of future we may have – it all really depends on finding ways to increase our congregation.

Please remember this in your prayers, as prayer is really the most important thing we can do, and is what we are all here for. We cannot achieve anything of significance without it. It is not just a matter of asking God to do things for us, it is, perhaps more importantly, a way of putting us into the right frame of mind to listen to what *He has to say to us*. He may be asking us to do a lot more than we want to, but as I said last year, we will never be asked to endure more than we can tolerate, and that if we remain faithful, in humility, hope, love and gratitude we shall yet see God's glory here.

Martin Andrews

## Christmas services

Owing to shortage of staff we are sorry that there will once again be no services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, and congregation members are encouraged to attend St Mary Magdalene's at 10.00 a.m. on Christmas Day.

## Prayer for Epiphany

*Almighty and everlasting God, the brightness of faithful souls, who didst bring the Gentiles to thy light and made known unto them him who is the true light, and the bright and morning star: Fill the world, we beseech thee, with thy glory, and show thyself by the radiance of thy light unto all nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Gregorian Sacramentary

## Contacts:

Fr Gary Clink (Priest – NSM)

Tel: 07500 944 284 gary.clink@brechin.anglican.org

Fr Michael Turner (Priest – retired)

Tel: 07761 127181 mjrturmer@btinternet.com

Martin Andrews (Churchwarden)

Tel: 07947 380 620 mhdeta@blueyonder.co.uk