

CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
and EDINBURGH CASTLE



October 2019

Dear friends -

At the end of September we participated once again in Edinburgh's annual Doors Open weekend and welcomed over 1300 visitors through the wide open doors of Canongate Kirk. Unlike our regular Open Kirk season when we mainly welcome tourists from home or abroad, the Doors Open weekend sees a significant number of local people come to visit as they make their way round the city-centre ticking off their own personal list of places they've always wanted to see. My own list this year included the University's Kings Buildings and the Sheriff Court, two places I'd never been to before - probably a good thing especially in the case of the Sheriff Court! My hope is always that when local folk come through our bright red doors for the first time, they might just want to come back another time.

All Saints is the time of year when we remember those who have been very much part of the family of our congregation over the years, who have come and gone regularly through those same doors, and are now no longer with us. One of the psalms that's often read at funerals is 121, I to the hills will lift mine eyes. It suits our situation in the shadow of Arthur's Seat but it also refers to how the Lord "will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore." And one of the funeral prayers speaks of how by his death and resurrection Jesus "opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers."

This year we shall be remembering all those who have gone through those heavenly doors with a celebration of Holy Communion at both our services (10am and 11-15am) on Sunday 27th October, the day incidentally when the clocks go back an hour. A fortnight either side of All Saints, we have Harvest Thanksgiving at both services on Sunday 13th October, and Remembrance with just the one service starting at 10-45am on Sunday 10th November. The doors are open every Sunday of course and you're always welcome, but not least at these special services when the Kirk Session and I look forward to welcoming you once again.

*With all good wishes
and every blessing.*

Neil