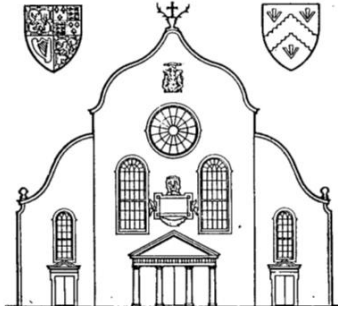


**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

Newsletter
April 2020



MINISTER'S LETTER

Our April newsletter was always going to be about Holy Week and Easter. Issued as usual on the first Sunday of the month, in this case Palm Sunday, I would under normal circumstances have been commending to your support the various services both in Canongate Kirk and in our neighbouring churches, beginning with the now traditional Palm Sunday afternoon pilgrimage down the Royal Mile from the Mercat Cross to the Abbey at Holyroodhouse. But these are not normal circumstances and none of these services and events can go ahead.

This does not mean however that - like Wimbledon and the Edinburgh International Festival and so many other annual fixtures - Holy Week and Easter have been cancelled! It just means we have to mark them in different ways this year, more individual ways certainly but perhaps more meaningful ways too. Do you still have a palm cross from last year? Perhaps you could use it to mark in your Bible the Palm Sunday reading at St Matthew 21:1-11. And then follow the story as it unfolds day by day in St John 12:1-11; 12:20-36; 13:21-32; 13:1-17 & 31-35; and on Good Friday, St John 18 & 19. The Gospel reading set for Easter Day this year is St John 20:1-18. Keep your eye on our website too, where Breda Ludik and I shall share reflections and prayers for each day from Palm Sunday to Easter and every Sunday thereafter, and I will even attempt a video message for Easter Day! Every church with a website is using it in different and imaginative ways, but these readings are from the lectionary, shared in common not just with our neighbouring churches but with the worldwide family of the Church. As the whole world struggles with this appalling global pandemic, may they help us to connect with Christian people everywhere, as in our own homes we turn together to these passages for comfort and inspiration. May God bless to us these readings from His holy word, and to His name be glory and praise.

*Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb;
Take we the robe and the harp and the palm;
Sing we the song of the lamb that was slain,
Dying in weakness, but rising to reign.*

ORGANISTS

Sunday 22nd March was due to be David Goodenough's last Sunday with us as organist, but it turned out to be the first Sunday the churches were all closed because of the spread of coronavirus. It is to be hoped that when this is all over we will have a celebratory "handover" recital with David and his successor Simon Leach, but for the moment we simply give thanks for David's skill and enthusiasm and for all that he has brought not just to our Frobenius organ but to all our worship in Canongate over the last three years.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Annual Review 2019/2020 has now been posted out to our members in and around Edinburgh. If for any reason you have not received a copy and would like one, please let the office know.

CRISIS COVER

Please remember to let the office know if you – or someone you know – could do with some help getting food or medicines, or would just appreciate a phone call to chat with somebody different?!

OFFERINGS

Some members have been asking for Canongate Kirk's bank details so that they can arrange electronic transfers to continue to support the Church's work during the current crisis. If you'd like those details please e mail canongatekirk@btinternet.com and we'll pass them on. Meanwhile if you usually give via weekly envelopes, please save them up at home and we'll get them eventually!

PARISH REGISTER

Sadly one wedding and one baptism were due to be held in March and had to be postponed because of the restrictions but we look forward to rescheduled celebrations in due course. Several funerals took place: Jenny Hartley and Margaret Fasson - who was Alastair Bowe's mother - were easily amongst our oldest members, at 95 and 100 years respectively; Joyce Churchill and Nancy Risley were the mothers of members Claire Churchill and Elizabeth Barry. We extend our condolences to their families at this especially difficult time of self-isolation and social distancing.

16 th March	Jenny Hartley	Manor Grange Care Home, Corstorphine
20 th March	Joyce Churchill	at Upholland, West Lancs
26 th March	Nancy Risley	Mayfield Court, West Savile Terrace
27 th March	Margaret Fasson	Muirfield Care Home, Gullane

"Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Minister	The Revd Neil Gardner	nng22@btinternet.com	0131 556 3515
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Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	canongatekirk@btinternet.com	0131 556 3515

The office is currently closed but Imogen continues to work from home:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am – 1pm

Website: www.canongatekirk.org.uk



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Scottish Charity SC 015251