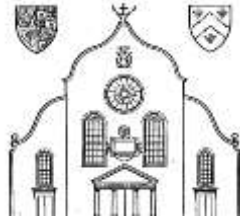


**CANONGATE KIRK  
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE  
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

[www.canongatekirk.org.uk](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk)

**Newsletter April 2025**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

Having reported last month on our having hosted an important service for the Priory of Scotland of the Order of St John, this month it's the turn of the Scottish Parliament which held its annual service here in late March. Actually it was only the second time it's happened, but two years in a row is probably enough to make it an annual event! It all started as an initiative from the Moderator of the General Assembly. Every year the Moderator visits the Houses of Parliament in London and preaches at a special service in the chapel at Westminster. But on their annual visit to the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood there was no such opportunity to share in a church service. Which is where we come in, with the recent service led by The Revd Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk, readings given by Alison Johnstone MSP, the Parliament's Presiding Officer and a sermon preached by The Right Revd Shaw Paterson, Moderator. Attended by a number of MSPs as well as members of the wider staff at Holyrood, it's a good way to remind all concerned of our role as Parish Church for the Scottish Parliament.

Recently members of the local community were asked to help choose three new quotes to be added shortly to the Scottish poetry stones set into the Canongate Wall of the Parliament complex. If you haven't noticed them before, they're well worth a look. My favourite has long been Alan Jackson's "What a lovely moon; and it's in the constituency too!" I suppose it's intended to reflect a politician's feeling that everything revolves around their particular territory. But it also brings to everyone a sense of distant things still being relevant to us, wherever we are. Like Easter, for instance. Originating in a time long ago and a place far away, it could all seem too remote, too distant, to have any impact on us here and now. But like the moon in the constituency - and remember the date of Easter is determined by the moon - our annual commemoration of the death and resurrection of Jesus speaks to us of Christ's sacrifice and God's limitless love for each one of us in our own place and our own time just as much as it did all those centuries ago in Jerusalem. Every year in our Holy Week and Easter services we find the powerful answer to a question once asked by the Psalmist:

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;  
What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?*

Happy Easter.

*Neil Gardner*

## PARISH REGISTER

### FUNERAL

7<sup>th</sup> March

Verity Shaw

Bonnington Terrace

*“Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”*

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am Morning Service & Baptism

**Palm Sunday**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 7pm Holy Communion

**Maundy Thursday**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 7pm Evening Service

**Good Friday**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am Morning Service & Baptism

**Easter Day**

### PARISH GROUPING

#### New Minister for St Giles’

The Revd Scott Rennie, currently minister of Crown Court – one of the two Church of Scotland congregations in London – preached as Sole Nominee on 16<sup>th</sup> February in the Cathedral and was duly elected to be the next minister of St Giles’. He is to be inducted to his new charge at a special service scheduled for Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm, and an invitation has been extended to members of our congregation, who will be more than welcome to attend. We keep Scott and the congregation of St Giles’ in our prayers at this time and look forward to welcoming him to our Parish Grouping on the Royal Mile in due course.

#### United Evening Service

Meanwhile, our next monthly united evening service in conjunction with St Giles’ takes place at 7pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome.

### SPRING CONCERTS

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 7.30pm Edinburgh Uni a Capella Society £12/£8**

Are you ready for this semester’s A Cappella magic? Join us for REPLAY, EUAC’s showcase featuring performances from 10 incredible groups!

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Linton Singers £15**

Choir, soloists and orchestra perform Rossini’s *Stabat Mater*

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm Ebenezer Choir FREE**

Choir from the Faroe Islands with a programme of hymns and other church music in English and Faroese.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 6.30pm Yehudi Menuhin School £15/£7.50**

More incredibly talented music students from Surrey – not to be missed!

## **OPEN KIRK AT EASTER**

We are hoping to be open to visitors and tourists once again over the Easter weekend. Please sign up on the noticeboard in the foyer if you can take a turn between 11am and 1.30pm or 1.30pm and 4pm from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

## **EASTER PLAY**

The annual Easter Play takes place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm in West Princes Street Gardens. 'Behold the Man' is presented by Cutting Edge Theatre, and is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of this amazing live production. Attendance is free and unticketed. For more information visit [www.easterplay.org](http://www.easterplay.org)

## **MONEY MATTERS**

The annual congregational meeting to mark the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 was held immediately after the morning service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March. A positive report was presented by Colin Stewart, our Finance Convener, and grateful thanks expressed to the Treasurer and the Finance Committee.

## **CONTACTLESS MACHINE**

Please be aware the 'Payaz' contactless machine in the Kirk foyer has allowed us to set up different donation values, or lets the donor choose the amount. Where applicable we can also claim Gift Aid on donations. The first time you use the machine you will be asked if you wish Gift Aid to be applied. If yes, just follow the steps on the screen. Once you have registered for Gift Aid, so long as you use the same card, you will not be asked again.

## **SUNDAY OFFERINGS**

We are grateful to everyone who supports the church financially in the variety of ways, including contactless, that are now available. Many members of the congregation still prefer to put something in the offering bags when they are passed around during the service. If you give by other means, please feel free to pass the bag on to those sitting alongside you so that everyone has an opportunity to give their offering.

## **MUSTER, MARCH AND REMEMBER**

At our morning service on Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup> we welcomed to their Regimental Kirk, members of the Royal Regiment of Scotland Association who joined us as part of their Muster, March and Remember reunion weekend. The Lowland Reserve Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland under the direction of Captain Alex Knox, provided musical support from the organ gallery.

## **LENT STUDY GROUP**

We have trialed a new time and place for a study group this year and meeting at 11.30 on a Sunday morning in the King David Aisle has proved worthwhile. It has meant that those travelling to church for the service are already there, and have time to get a coffee and a chat and still be out before the traffic wardens pounce at 12.30pm! We have followed a book produced by the Church of Scotland entitled "Living Generously". Offering what is described as a "whole-life response to God's love", the book incorporates a series of articles, case studies and discussion prompts as we travel towards Easter and its reminder of God's own generous and unconditional love for the world in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus.

## **CHRISTIAN AID BOOK SALE**

Advance notice that the book sale is returning to Edinburgh New Town Church (formerly St Andrew's & St George's West) in George Street. It will take place from Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May (except Sunday). Drop-off times for books are 28<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> May between 9am and 8pm. Contact [ca@edinburghnewtownchurch.org.uk](mailto:ca@edinburghnewtownchurch.org.uk) for any queries about drop-offs or the book sale in general.

## **PALACE EXHIBITION**

*Royal Portraits – A Century of Photography* at the Kings Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse, charts the evolution of royal portrait photography from the 1920s to the present day, bringing together photographic prints, proofs and documents from the Royal Collection and the Royal Archives, including works from Cecil Beaton and Dorothy Wilding to Annie Leibovitz and Rankin. Open daily until 7th September <https://bit.ly/4gmsNZU>

## **YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!**

There are now rotas in place for volunteers to sign up to help with Sunday duties – if you'd like to be part of the welcoming face of Canongate Kirk, giving out hymn books and orders of service and taking up the collection etc, please sign up against any particular Sunday. There's a rota for those who would like to read lessons too. Not to mention the rotas to help with tea and coffee after the service, to arrange flowers in advance, and to support Open Kirk's remit of welcoming visitors and tourists at weekends. There are lots of opportunities to work with and get to know other members of the family of our congregation – don't be shy!

## **TRUSSELL TRUST**

We continue to collect donations for Edinburgh foodbanks supported by Trussell Trust. Non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries can be brought any Sunday and left in the basket in the foyer.

Minister: The Revd Neil Gardner E: [nng22@btinternet.com](mailto:nng22@btinternet.com) T: 0131 556 3515

Kirk Secretary: Imogen Gibson (office) E: [canongatekirk@btinternet.com](mailto:canongatekirk@btinternet.com) T: 0131 556 3515

*Office Hours: Mon + Wed + Fri 9am – 1pm, Thurs 9am – 12 noon. Closed Tuesdays*

<https://www.canongatekirk.org.uk/>

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