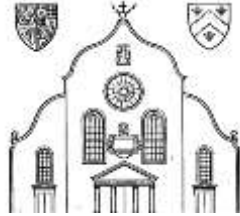


**CANONGATE KIRK  
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE  
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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

**Newsletter April 2024**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

On Palm Sunday the congregation was once again joined by a contingent of members of the Royal Regiment of Scotland Association as part of their annual “Muster, March and Remember” event. They mustered on the Castle Esplanade, and marched down the Royal Mile behind the Lowland Band, which also came into the Kirk to lend a military flourish to our music. And there in their Regimental Kirk they remembered those whose names are inscribed on their Roll of Honour. As together we also remembered the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, it was a particularly appropriate theme for Palm Sunday. Muster, March and Remember. But it works just as well for the weeks that follow Easter too.

According to the New Testament Book of the Acts of the Apostles, those weeks saw the friends and followers of Jesus regrouping after his death and resurrection, mustering as it were before marching on to fulfil his great commission to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”. And all the time remembering that he would be with them always, to the end of the age. Those are his actual words at the very end of St Matthew’s Gospel. “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

In the weeks that follow Easter this year, we’re doing a bit of regrouping of our own. We’re hoping to boost our duty teams Sunday by Sunday by encouraging volunteers from out with the Kirk Session to join elders in welcoming the congregation, giving out hymnbooks and orders of service, taking up the offering etc. – if you would like to help on a specific Sunday, please sign up on the rota at the back of the King David Aisle. There’s a new rota there too for those who are willing to give the readings at our Sunday services – again, please sign up if you’d like to take a turn. New rotas will appear every couple of months. Existing rotas for helping with tea and coffee after the service, arranging flowers and supporting Open Kirk are all still in place in the foyer. As we regroup after Easter, please consider new ways in which you might lend your support, so that together we can muster, march and remember the old Scottish Paraphrase:

*Each future period that will bless,  
as it has blessed the past:  
he loved us from the first of time,  
he loves us to the last.*

*Neil Gardner*

## PARISH REGISTER

### BAPTISM

17<sup>th</sup> March                      Maeve Margot Frazer                      *St Margaret's Chapel*

*"Then he took them in his arms and blessed them."*

### WEDDINGS

2<sup>nd</sup> March                      Lauren Slater & Alexander Douglas

23<sup>rd</sup> March                      Claire Bruce & Henry Scott                      *Dundas Castle*

*"Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide."*

### MEMORIAL SERVICES

1<sup>st</sup> March                      Dr Flora Ross-Russell                      Regent Terrace

8<sup>th</sup> March                      Lord James Douglas-Hamilton                      Archerfield

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

### EVENING SERVICES

Our monthly united evening service in conjunction with St Giles' for March coincides with Easter Day and takes place at 7pm on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Beyond that, at 7pm on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April our guest preacher will be The Right Revd Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. All welcome!

### PARISH GROUPING

Meetings to discuss the terms of our parish grouping with St Giles' have been taking place over the last couple of months. Thanks are due to our representatives Louise Brodie, Colin Stewart and Miriam Weibye, for their commitment to this important subject. Terms of an agreement will need to be approved by both Kirk Sessions and the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian in due course and the congregation will be kept fully informed as it takes shape.

### OPEN KIRK

Our programme to welcome visitors and tourists to Canongate Kirk resumes at Easter weekend and continues every weekend thereafter in the meantime. Please sign up on the board in the foyer in the church if you can help take a turn.

### CRAFT CLUB

The Craft club continues to meet monthly in the Harry Younger Hall on the second Wednesday of each month from 6.30pm – 8pm with the next meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April. The group is open to crafters and non-crafters, skilled and non-skilled alike – you can be sure of a friendly welcome.

### CONTACTLESS MACHINE

Our previous machine in the foyer has been replaced by a new 'Payaz' contactless machine which has allowed us to set up different donation values, or let the donor choose the amount they wish to give. Where applicable we will also be able to claim Gift Aid on donations. The first time you use the new 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.

## **ROBERT FERGUSSON EVENT**

This year marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the untimely death of the poet Robert Fergusson, whose much-loved statue is just outside the gates of Canongate Kirkyard where he is buried. The Scottish Poetry Library has organised an evening to celebrate his extraordinary life and times at 7pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May in Canongate Kirk. Poetry, music and conversation will be provided by writer James Robertson, academic Professor Rhona and musician Tommy Reckless. Remaining tickets available on Eventbrite <https://bit.ly/3TA786S>

## **YEHUDI MEHUHIN SCHOOL CONCERT**

We look forward to welcoming the latest generation of hugely talented students from the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music in Surrey for an afternoon concert on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. All proceeds go to Canongate Kirk. More details to follow, but worth putting in your diary NOW.

## **KING'S GALLERY EXHIBITION**

'Style and Society – Dressing the Georgians' is the new exhibition at the re-named King's Gallery at Holyroodhouse, exploring Georgian fashion with examples of fine art, luxurious textiles, jewelry and other accessories from the practical dress of laundry maids to the glittering gowns worn at court. Open every day except Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9am – 4.30pm. Ticket prices and more information on the King's Gallery website at <https://bit.ly/3TzisQM>

## **FREE CONCERT AT STOCKBRIDGE CHURCH**

From time to time we have enjoyed the trumpet playing of Finlay Hetherington at special services in Canongate Kirk. Finlay is the leader of the Brass Tacks ensemble, which will give a free lunchtime concert at 1pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April at Stockbridge Church, 7b Saxe Coburg Street, EH3 5HT. All welcome.

## **SIR JAMES MACMILLAN AT ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL**

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Friends of St Mary's Catholic Cathedral are hosting Sir James MacMillan, one of the world's most successful living composers, who will give a talk entitled *Chant, the music of Faith, and its Influence on the History of Music*. It's a rare opportunity to hear insights from one of the world's most acclaimed classical music composers, and one of the Church's great musicians. Admission is free but spaces need to be reserved on Eventbrite <https://bit.ly/4a4POOD>

## **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.

## STEWARDING AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Presbytery is seeking volunteers to act as stewards for the General Assembly week of 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024. Stewards have a vital role at the General Assembly to ensure the safety and comfort of those attending. They provide a friendly welcome to the Assembly Halls, ensure the security of proceedings by checking passes, are alert to security threats and disturbances and have a responsibility to ensure the safe evacuation of the Assembly Hall if this is required. Individual shifts last for three hours and volunteers can select the day or days on which they could help. If you are interested, please contact Sandy Gemmill, Chief Steward at [assemblystewards@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:assemblystewards@churchofscotland.org.uk)

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

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

*Office Opening Hours: Mon, Wed 9am – 1pm, Thursday 9am – 12 noon, Fri 8am – 12 noon.*

[www.canongatekirk.org.uk](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk)  @CanongateKirk  @canongate.kirk

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