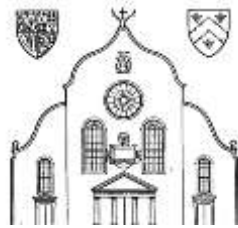


**CANONGATE KIRK  
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE  
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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

**Newsletter August 2023**





**MINISTER'S LETTER**

“Coming up to your busy time?!” That’s what people often ask me when December comes round. I try to smile as if nobody’s ever said it before, and as if it really doesn’t imply that I’m kicking my heels for most of the year. Anyway, as August comes round it can safely be said that we are coming up to our busy time in Canongate Kirk. Our concert schedule for this year’s Fringe is included elsewhere in this newsletter – do have a browse through it and see if there’s anything that might appeal. There’s something for everyone. Apart from concerts, Open Kirk is proving busy too, every day of the week. We are fortunate to have willing volunteers covering weekends, and Madalaine Wallace is already halfway through her student internship with us, ensuring that the church is also open Monday to Friday. Over the month of July, she has counted thousands of visitors coming through our red doors, the record so far being 944 in a day. She hopes to make four figures one day this month! A busy time indeed.

During the week 14<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> August, the City Council has given permission to volunteers and staff from Richmond’s Hope to set up a stand in our Kirkyard, to raise funds and awareness. This year this Craigmillar-based children’s bereavement charity is celebrating its twentieth anniversary, and over those twenty years it has supported over 5000 bereaved families, an outstanding achievement. The culmination of its efforts to mark this significant milestone will be a “Mile of Memories” event in Holyrood Park on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, which will be well worth a visit. In the midst of our busy time, it’s good to make time for such a thoroughly worthwhile cause.

*Neil Gardner*

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Scottish Charity SC 015251			

## PARISH REGISTER

### Blessing of Marriage

28<sup>th</sup> July Nicola Mitchell & Jean-Louis Burban

### Wedding

29<sup>th</sup> July Jessica Wessely & Oliver Carmichael at Fowlis Wester

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

### Funeral

6<sup>th</sup> July The Earl of Airlie at Cortachy

### Memorial Service

19<sup>th</sup> July Cameron Buchanan South Trinity Road

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

## ST GILES' CATHEDRAL

The Revd Calum MacLeod, Minister of St Giles', has recently announced that he is stepping down after nine years in the post. He has helped to establish our closer collaboration as congregations and we wish Calum and Missy every blessing as they prepare to move on to pastures new. Meanwhile our monthly united evening services with St Giles' have been proving popular and will continue through the summer with the next one taking place at 7pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August here in Canongate Kirk. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome to these short reflective services.

## SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August coincides with the opening of the Edinburgh International Festival and our 10.30am service will include music for violin and piano. We are also hoping that the Royal Patron of the Festival will be in the Palace pew. Unfortunately, there is also a major cycling event taking place in the city centre at the same time and the road will be closed to traffic. But please try and allow extra time to get here for what promises to be a very special service.

## SIMON LEACH CONCERT

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August at 1pm Simon Leach and violinist Benedict Holland will give a summer recital as part of the Edinburgh Fringe. The programme includes popular pieces by Tchaikovsky, Handel, Delius and contemporary Scottish composer Helen Leach. Tickets £10/5 on the door. Please come if you can!

## CRAFT CLUB

Our Craft Club meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month, with the next meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August from 6.30 – 8pm in the Harry Younger Hall. All crafters (and non-crafters) welcome!

## TEA AND COFFEE VOLUNTEERS

The next few Sundays are without volunteers to help support our fellowship after worship. Please sign up on the rota in the foyer if you can help. No previous experience necessary!

## PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The Minister has once again been asked to make recordings for the early morning series on BBC Radio 4 starting on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August at 5.43am and continuing at the same time Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August. As before these will remain on the BBC iPlayer for one month so you don't have to set your alarms early!

## **ROBERT FERGUSSON**

The much admired statue by David Annand at our front gate has been found to have a crack in the calf of the poet's left leg, which has made the statue unstable. It has been removed for repair and hopefully it won't be too long before Robert is back in his usual place.

## **MARGARET BUCHANAN**

Still on the theme of historical figures with a Canongate connection, we have been informed that a portrait painted by Sir Henry Raeburn of the wife of The Revd Walter Buchanan is currently on display in the dining room of the National Trust for Scotland's Georgian House in Charlotte Square. It's part of a special exhibition which runs until November, marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the artist's death and featuring a number of his Edinburgh portraits, all from the NTS collection. Walter Buchanan was minister here during the early decades of the nineteenth century, and overlapped with The Revd Robert Walker, more famously depicted by Raeburn as the Skating Minister! We have a large portrait of Walter on the back wall of the Kirk. His wife Margaret, who died in 1847, was a noted abolitionist in her own right.

## **SACRED ARTS FESTIVAL**

The Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts takes place annually as part of the Edinburgh Fringe running from Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August. This year's expanded programme includes three exhibitions, seven musical events, drama, poetry and film plus the traditional opening and closing church services. Additional venues include St Mary's Episcopalian Cathedral, Greyfriars Kirk and St John's Princes Street. Canongate Kirk is also a venue with *Composing Sacred Music* on 16<sup>th</sup> August - showcasing the work of four of Edinburgh's newest young composers. Visit <https://www.edinburghsacredartsfestival.org/2023-programme.html>

### **EDINBURGH FRINGE 2023: CONCERTS AT CANONGATE KIRK**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm Scottish Meditation Orchestra**

*Piano Meditations* Exploring the connection between music, meditation and mental health with live orchestra, piano, tea ceremonies, bells and guided meditations.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 1pm Simon Leach and Benedict Holland**

*Summer Recital – Violin and Piano* Popular pieces by Tchaikovsky, Handel, Delius and contemporary Scottish composer Helen Leach performed by Simon Leach and concert violinist Benedict Holland.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 5pm Rock Festival Choir**

*The Spirit and the Light* Alnwick's highly regarded chamber choir perform a spine-tingling programme of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>-century choral classics including Chilcott's toe-tapping Jazz Mass.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August 10pm St Andrew Camerata**

*Fauré's Requiem* Atmospheric, late-night performances of Gabriel Fauré's much-loved Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine, with orchestra. Directed by Robert Dick, these very popular shows are the perfect way to wind down from a day at the festival: book early!

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2pm Glee Club**

*Glee Club UK Adult Community Choir* This 120-strong community choir will have you foot-tapping and singing along as they inspire, energise and entertain in glorious four-part harmony with songs that you know and love. *Admission Free.*

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm Edinburgh Bach Ensemble**

*Bach and Vivaldi* Returning to Canongate Kirk for their 10<sup>th</sup> Edinburgh Fringe, the ensemble and guests perform CPE Bach Cello Concerto in C Minor, Vivaldi Bassoon Concerto in C Minor, two four-violin concertos from Vivaldi L'Estro Armonico, concluding with the ever-popular JS Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 1.15pm Edinburgh Sacred Arts Festival**

*Composing Sacred Music – A New Generation* Showcasing the work of four of Edinburgh's newest young composers – Alexander McNamee, Carlo Massimo, Viktor Seifert and Lucy Whitehead, performed by a specially recruited professional choir, under the direction of Calum Robertson, director of Edinburgh University Singers.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm Edinburgh Bach Ensemble**

*Bach Handel Mozart* John Cameron (piano) performs Mozart Piano Concerto No. 22 in Eb K.482 in the chamber version with strings. Soprano Electra Lochhead is joined by Aaron Akugbo (trumpet) for the joyful Bach Solo Cantata, Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen, BWV 51. Handel Concerto Grosso Op. 6 No. 7 in Bb completes the programme.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 12 noon David Hamilton**

*Bach: Intimations of Genius* David Hamilton presents a concert of some of Bach's earliest organ compositions. The combination of organ (Frobenius opus 1000) and acoustic make Canongate Kirk a perfect venue in Edinburgh for listening to Bach's organ music.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 10pm St Andrew Camerata**

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**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2pm Wellingborough Community Gospel Choir**

*Get up and Gospel!* Get ready for an inspirational musical experience you'll never forget! Timeless classics you know and love, inspirational anthems, and exhilarating gospel arrangements guaranteed to revitalise your heart and soul. *Admission Free*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 8pm Alastair Savage and Friends**

*Scots Fiddle Old and New* This year, celebrating his 50th birthday, one of Scotland's leading fiddle exponents presents an extra-special journey of classic folk music accompanied by his closest collaborators from the past two decades. A festival highlight not to be missed!

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 12 noon City of Derby Girls Choir**

*Travel with Song* ChorAlchemy, comprised of Voices of Derby and Derby City Singers, take you on a choral journey through time and space with a programme including early polyphony, sacred, art song, folk, madrigals and much more. *Admission Free.*

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 9pm Calton Consort**

*Sublime to Ridiculous* Calton Consort chamber choir return to the Fringe with a concert of nonsense and beauty. Featuring music by Ola Gjeilo, Thea Musgrave, Eric Whitacre, Jaakko Mäntyjärvi and others. Directed by Rory Wilson.

All tickets available at <https://www.edfringe.com/> or on the door