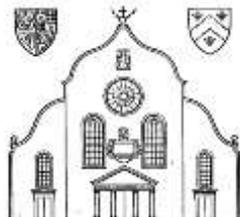


**CANONGATE KIRK  
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE  
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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

**Newsletter August 2024**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

I recently spent a few days in Cardiff courtesy of The Order of St John. It was their annual Grand Council meeting, and having attended it in New Zealand last year, and hoping to attend it in Australia next year, I really felt I ought to go to Cardiff this year! I'd never been before and I really enjoyed it. And there was no jet lag! We all stayed in a lovely hotel with wonderful views across Cardiff Bay and though the conference sessions were quite intense, local excursions were thoughtfully built into the timetable so we could experience something of local life and tradition. St Fagan's National Museum of History, for instance, was a fascinating place, where old buildings from around Wales - among them farm-houses and cottages, shops and businesses, a school and a church - were carefully rebuilt stone by stone in a nostalgic complex where visitors could get a very real sense of how ordinary life for most folk used to be.

On a rather grander scale, Cardiff Castle turned out to be strangely familiar to the Scottish visitor in particular, having come in to the hands of the Bute family through marriage in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. An ancient family who trace their roots back to the Kings of Scotland, successive Marquesses of Bute made a vast fortune from coal mined on their Welsh estates, and by introducing elaborately ornate Gothic interiors transformed Cardiff Castle into a recognisable version of Mount Stuart, their extravagant base on the Scottish Isle of Bute.

On our final night, the icing on the cake was to be entertained by Pendyrus Male Choir, a century-old traditional male voice choir whose powerful singing literally made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up! Originating from the Rhondda Valley, what else could they finish with but Cwm Rhondda, Guide me O thou great Redeemer?! Unforgettable.

Wherever this summer takes you, to a simple or a more elaborate location, let that great hymn accompany us all on our way, as we seek rest and recuperation.

*Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.*

*Neil Gardner*

## PARISH REGISTER

### WEDDINGS

13 <sup>th</sup> July	Iona Montgomery & Charles Leclercq	<i>at Murthly Castle, Perthshire</i>
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Madelyn Bickhart & Jonathan Shanklin	
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Morven Anderson & Fergus Nimmo	<i>at Largo, Fife</i>

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

### PARISH GROUPING WITH ST GILES

#### United Evening Service

Our next monthly united evening service in conjunction with St Giles' takes place at 7pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome.

#### Young Adults Group

St Giles' are keen to establish a Young Adults Group for under 40s and would welcome any eligible contenders from Canongate. They are planning to meet in early August and if you are interested please email Rev Sam Nwokoro on [sam.nwokoro@stgilescathedral.org.uk](mailto:sam.nwokoro@stgilescathedral.org.uk)

#### St Giles' Neighbourhood Group

The St Giles' Neighbourhood Group is a small group of volunteers who come together to raise money for local charities. They organise fund-raising activities such as a can collection on Princes Street at Christmas and help staff night kitchens for the homeless through the Bethany Trust. They are always looking for new members and would particularly welcome anyone in the Canongate congregation who might like to find out more about their work (with no obligation). Anyone is welcome to simply observe an (online) meeting or contact us to find out more. Please get in touch with Alan Convery at [alanconvery@hotmail.com](mailto:alanconvery@hotmail.com) at St Giles'.

#### OPEN KIRK

If members of the congregation can take a turn to welcome visitors on Saturday mornings and afternoons as well as Sunday afternoons, that would be much appreciated. There are so many visitors and tourists on the Royal Mile and it's a shame to be closed when we could be open!

#### KIRKYARD TOURS

The next of these fascinating monthly tours by guide and historian Eric Drake takes place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August exploring Canongate's connections with the wider world. Tours start at the front of the Kirk at 11.30am and last an hour.

#### 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 14<sup>th</sup> August. The group is open to crafters and non-crafters, skilled and non-skilled alike – you can be sure of a friendly welcome.

#### EDINBURGH FESTIVAL OF THE SACRED ARTS

As part of the Fringe, the Edinburgh Sacred Arts Festival will take place from 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> August. This year the opening service will be incorporated into our regular 10.30am service on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> August, when we will be joined by the Choir of the Robin Chapel and an address will be given by James Holloway CBE, formerly Director of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. All welcome! Later that week, Canongate is also the venue for two more

Sacred Arts Festival events – ‘Refuge and the Road Home’ with poets Christine De Luca and Elspeth Murray at 1.15pm Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August, and the final of the Edinburgh Sacred Art Foundation’s Young Composer competition at 1.15pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> with prizes to be presented by Dame Judith Weir, Master of the King’s Music. Tickets and information at: <https://www.edinburghsacredartsfestival.org/festival-2024-programme.html>

We have our own range of concerts as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe when Canongate Kirk once again becomes Venue 60 – turn to the last page for a full list of all our Fringe events. And please note that our own organist Simon Leach is giving a harpsichord recital on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 12 noon. Tickets £10/£7 on door. Familiar faces from the congregation will be most welcome so do come if you can!

### **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.

### **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!

### **SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT EXHIBITION**

‘Eric Liddell: Legacy of an Olympic Legend’ is an inspiring exhibition commemorating the legendary athlete and marking the centenary of his iconic Olympic gold medal victory in Paris in 1924. From 25<sup>th</sup> July – 12<sup>th</sup> September, Mon – Sat, 10am to 5pm. Admission free.

### **KING’S GALLERY EXHIBITION**

‘Style and Society – Dressing the Georgians’ is the current 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>

### **TRUSSELL TRUST**

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

Minister:	The Revd Neil Gardner	<a href="mailto:nng22@btinternet.com">nng22@btinternet.com</a>	0131 556 3515
Kirk Secretary:	Imogen Gibson (office)	<a href="mailto:canongatekirk@btinternet.com">canongatekirk@btinternet.com</a>	0131 556 3515
<i>Office Opening Hours: Mon, Wed 9am – 1pm, Thursday 9am – 12 noon, Fri 8am – 12 noon.</i>			
	<a href="http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk">www.canongatekirk.org.uk</a>	 @CanongateKirk	 @canongate.kirk

Scottish Charity SC 015251



## CANONGATE KIRK AT THE FRINGE 2024

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 10pm**

**St Andrew Camerata** An atmospheric, late-night performance of Gabriel Fauré's much-loved *Requiem* and *Cantique de Jean Racine*, with orchestra. Directed by Robert Dick, the perfect way to wind down from a day at the festival. Repeated on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 3pm**

**The Stray Notes** This community choir from Harrogate, North Yorkshire, sing an eclectic mix of music in four-part harmony. Join them for an uplifting hour, including choral, pop, rock, show tunes and world music.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm**

**The Bach Ensemble of Edinburgh** With soloists Angela Hicks (soprano) and Hannah Foster (flute) in a programme featuring Bach's solo *Cantata Ich Habe Genug* and the Vivaldi flute concerto *The Goldfinch*.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 9pm**

**Calton Consort** The Edinburgh-based chamber choir present *Choral Pride*, an hour of choral music from LGBTQ+ composers and allies.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 1.15pm**

**Edinburgh Sacred Arts Festival** *Refuge and the Road Home* is a selection of poems reflecting on home and homelessness from a material and a spiritual perspective presented by poets Christine De Luca and Elspeth Murray with Katharine Wake (flute).

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 1.15pm**

**Edinburgh Sacred Arts Festival** *Composing Sacred Music: The Next Generation* with Dame Judith Weir, Master of the King's Music. Concluding recital and prize-giving for the winners of the 2024 Sacred Music Competition for young Scottish composers.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm**

**The Bach Ensemble of Edinburgh** The Ensemble return with soloists John Cameron (piano), Sheena Jardine (violin) and Aaron Akugbo (trumpet) in a programme of Bach concertos, an Albinoni trumpet concerto, Handel and Boyce.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 12 noon**

**Simon Leach Harpsichord Recital** Performing on a 1972 Michael Johnson harpsichord, our own organist Simon performs the *First Partita* and *English Suite* for solo harpsichord composed by J. S. Bach. **Tickets £10/£7 on door. All welcome!**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 12 noon**

**David Hamilton Organ Recital** David's programme includes the *Partita O Gott, du frommer Gott, Prelude and Fugue in G (BWV 535)* and a selection of Chorale Preludes on the world-famous Frobenius organ.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 3pm**

**Jam Theatre Show Choir** Award-winning Jam Theatre Show Choir bring their fabulous harmonies and fun to their new show *That 70's Choir*. Featuring all your favourite hits to get you grooving.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 10pm**

**St Andrew Camerata** Another chance to see the atmospheric, late-night performance of Gabriel Fauré's much-loved *Requiem* and *Cantique de Jean Racine*, with orchestra, directed by Robert Dick.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 6pm**

**Alastair Savage** Alastair returns with 'Scots Fiddle Old and New' - his unique celebration of the Scots fiddle tradition. Featuring a stellar cast of top performers from the folk music world.

*Tickets for all our concerts are available either from <https://www.edfringe.com/> or on the door.*