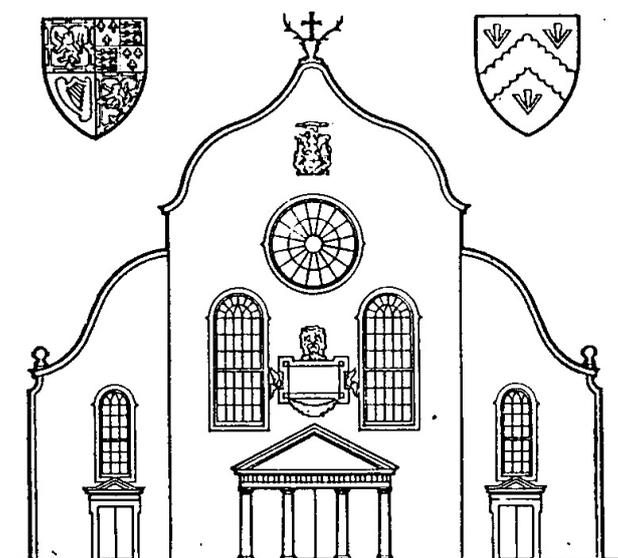


**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

Newsletter

December 2018 & January 2019



SERVICES IN DECEMBER

2 nd December	10:	Family Service
<i>Advent 1</i>	11.15	Parish Worship
9 th	10:	Family Service
<i>Advent 2</i>	11.15	Parish Worship
16 th	10:	Christingle Service
<i>Advent 3</i>	11.15	Parish Worship
23 rd	10:	Family Service
<i>Advent 4</i>	11.15	Lessons and Carols
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
<i>Christmas Day</i>	11am	Family Service
30 th	10:	Family Service
<i>Christmas 1</i>	11.15	Parish Worship & Holy Communion

PARISH REGISTER

Blessing of a baby

24th November Isla Rose Mhairi Blythe *in St Margaret's Chapel*
"Then he took them in his arms and blessed them."

Weddings

10th November Victoria McCulloch & Calum Hogg
"Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide."

Funeral

19th November Bill Reid MBE Paisley Avenue

Memorial services

24th November Buzz Noble Perthshire

26th November Robert Mackenzie LVO MBE Balerno

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

MINISTER'S LETTER

As this year begins to draw to a close we can all reflect with a degree of satisfaction on the success of our fundraising appeal that we launched nine months ago to help meet the significant costs of the repairs to the roof, walls and windows that will take place next year. The £105,000 + that we have raised will help a great deal and grateful thanks are due to everyone who has contributed thus far in any way. I'm equally grateful to the Fabric Committee whose members have been overseeing the whole process as far as the repairs are concerned. There's a lull on that front for the moment while tenders are out, but elsewhere in this newsletter you can find out more about some of the other worthy causes we have been supporting, or are about to support. The shoeboxes filled with good and useful things for adults and children in hard-pressed parts of Eastern Europe such as Albania, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. The retiring offering for Poppy Scotland on this year's most poignant Remembrance Sunday, to support their vital work among Armed Forces veterans and their families. And the recent decision by the Kirk Session to nominate Combat Stress as the charity we will support through this year's Christmas Appeal, a charity set up in the months that followed the Armistice of 1918 specifically to focus on those returning from the First World War with scars not just of body but of mind too. The need for such support continues to this day and I certainly commend our Christmas Appeal in turn to your generous support.

Not least because considering the needs of others and not just ourselves is such an important part of Christmas. Indeed, it lies at the very heart of the incarnation. In his letter to the Ephesians, St Paul connects the two more succinctly than I would manage. "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but

emptied himself...being born in human likeness.” As we come to celebrate that birth once again, let’s remember this supreme example of considering the needs of others, and take it to our hearts. Happy Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Two new cards showing views of the church from the Royal Mile and Regent Road, are now in stock and available for purchase at £3.50 per pack of ten. All proceeds to church funds. Don’t forget to save your used stamps from all the cards you receive in December, and bring them to the box, also in the foyer, from which they are sent to support the Church of Scotland’s work abroad.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Once again we shall form a congregational choir this year, to participate in the annual service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday 23rd December. Rehearsals will take place between services in Advent starting at 10.30am on Sunday 2nd December. You don’t need to be an experienced singer to join, and all are welcome.

CHRISTMAS SOUP LUNCH

This will take place on Tuesday 4th December at 12 noon in the Harry Younger Hall. There will be the usual bingo and quiz but with some seasonal Christmas surprises too! We are hoping for a good turn out as this will be the last Soup Lunch until February 2019.

CHRISTMAS SUPPER

This will be held in the Harry Younger Hall on Thursday 13th December at 7pm. Tickets at £12 from John Fanning, Etta Geekie and Fiona Grant. Numbers are limited to 80 people. Those coming are encouraged to bring wine and desserts.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Kirk Session has agreed that the recipient charity of this year’s retiring offerings around Christmas will be Combat Stress, the military charity established within months of the end of the First World War to help veterans struggling with mental health issues, many of them associated at that time with shell shock. A hundred years later, the vital work of Combat Stress is as much needed as ever. The retiring offerings will be in place from Sundays 23rd to 30th December and if you are to be away over Christmas but would like to support this worthwhile cause, donations can be handed in to the office.

NEIGHBOURING CHURCHES

A new website for the Runciman Apse Trust was officially launched at St Patrick’s, Cowgate recently. The Trust was established to raise funds for the restoration of a

significant mural and other paintings by Alexander Runciman, one of several artists buried in our Kirkyard. St Patrick's itself was once home to an Episcopalian congregation, then a Presbyterian one before becoming a Roman Catholic Church, so Trustees include local ecumenical representatives from Canongate and Old St Paul's. You can find out more on that new website www.runcimanapsetrust.com There will be a special service of "Stations of the Nativity" at St Patrick's on Monday 17th December at 7pm and a service of nine Lessons and Carols in Old St Paul's, Jeffrey Street at 6.30pm on Sunday 23rd December. Members of our congregation are warmly encouraged to attend these services.

CHARITY CAROL SERVICES

There are two early carol services in Canongate Kirk to which all members of the congregation are welcome. The first is given by ABF, the Soldiers' Charity together with Combat Stress on Wednesday 5th December at 6pm and the second is the annual Christmas service given by Crisis, the Homelessness charity, on Monday 10th December at 6pm followed by a reception in the Harry Younger Hall.

CAMPUS MINISTRY CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

If you're a student or young adult, then you're invited to the Campus Ministry's end of year party! Special prize for worst Christmas jumper. Wednesday 5th December, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 138-140 The Pleasance. Free dinner 6pm, carols 7pm.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Once again Canongate Kirk has been allocated a number of places for the Scottish Parliament's annual Christmas Carol Service within the Parliament building on Wednesday 19th December at 6.15pm. Mulled wine/fruit juice and mince pies will be served in the main hall after the service. If you would like to attend please sign the sheet on a clipboard at the back of the Kirk, or let the office know, by 10th December.

BLYTHSWOOD APPEAL

Many thanks to everyone who filled 30 shoeboxes for women and men, girls and boys in eastern Europe and beyond. These were delivered to the collection point last month and will be delivered to those in need by Christmas.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2018

Thanks too to everyone who contributed to the retiring offering, which raised over £1100 for Poppy Scotland. Our five "There, but not there" silhouettes of soldiers were much admired during the 100 days leading to the centenary of the Armistice, and have now been removed to the pews, though one has been transferred to the War Memorial Chapel.

CONCERTS AT CANONGATE KIRK

Calton Consort on 1st December at 6pm. *Into the Light* with music by Gabriel Jackson, Owain Park, Francois Poulenc, Josef Rheinberger, John Rutter, Eric Whitacre and Charles Wood. Conducted by Frikki Walker. Tickets £12/£10

Open Orchestra on 8th December at 7.30pm. Schubert's Symphony *The Great*. Free entry with a closing collection.

Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland on 13th December at 7pm. Free entry with a retiring collection.

Lowland Band on 15th December at 1pm. Free entry.

Chapterhouse Singers on 15th December at 7.30pm. *People Look East* - a Christmas concert featuring Dvořák's Mass in D and music from Eastern Europe. Advance tickets £13.50 from www.chapterhousesingers.com or £15 on the door.

A Classical Banquet for Christmas on 16th December at 4pm. Three internationally –acclaimed musicians, Paulius Rudokas, Alexey Gusev and Egle Sarmaviciute and a principal ballerina, Polina Shakanova, present a musical feast that includes vocal and piano masterpieces and a unique sequence from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. Tickets £12. Groups of 10+ £8 each from www.ticketsource.co.uk/vocalmasterpeices or on the door.

St Andrew Camerata on 22nd December at 7.30pm. *An Edinburgh Christmas* directed by Vincent Wallace. Tickets £12/£8 from <http://www.usherhall.co.uk/> or on the door.

ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH

Blackwell's bookshop is offering our congregation 30 free tickets to see Alexander McCall Smith at the Lyceum Theatre on Tuesday 4th December at 7.30pm. Tickets normally cost £9 so this is a very generous offer. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with Calum McGhie at calum.mcghie@blackwell.co.uk stating how many tickets they would like. Details of the actual event can be found at here - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-festive-evening-with-alexander-mccall-smith-tickets-51087588352>

PANMURE HOUSE

A number of Open Kirk stewards recently enjoyed a tour of the newly restored Panmure House, former home of Adam Smith, before reflecting on their experience

of Open Kirk this summer. There will be further opportunities for members and friends of the congregation to visit Panmure House in the course of the New Year.

BIBLE STUDY

We have recently concluded our latest series looking at Songs of the Bible from Moses in the Old Testament to Mary in the New. The next series will begin in the New Year and further details will be announced soon.

QUEEN'S GALLERY EXHIBITION

'*Charles II, Art & Power*' has now opened at The Queen's Gallery, Holyroodhouse and runs until 2nd June 2019. Discover the resurgent role of the arts in the re-establishment of the Stuart monarchy. Open daily 9.30am – 4.30pm.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Edinburgh Churches Together is hosting a service of prayer and worship for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019 on Monday 21st January 2019 at 7.30pm, Palmerston Place Church, 10 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5AA. A reception will follow the service to which all are warmly invited. The theme is based around the text 'Justice and only justice you shall pursue' (*Deuteronomy 16: 18 – 20*)

DUTY ELDERS FOR DECEMBER 2018

Stuart McFarlane
Robert Watson
Jacky McFarlane

Fiona Grant
Colin Stewart
Rachel Wright

Jane Stewart
Daniel McKinney

Minister	The Revd Neil Gardner <i>nng22@btinternet.com</i>	0131 556 3515
Assistant Minister	Katherine Taylor <i>KTaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk</i>	07748445998
Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	0131 556 3515
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am – 1pm, Friday 8am – 12 noon		

E mail: canongatekirk@btinternet.com

Website: www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Twitter: @CanongateKirk

[facebook.com/canongate.kirk](https://www.facebook.com/canongate.kirk)

Scottish Charity SC 015251

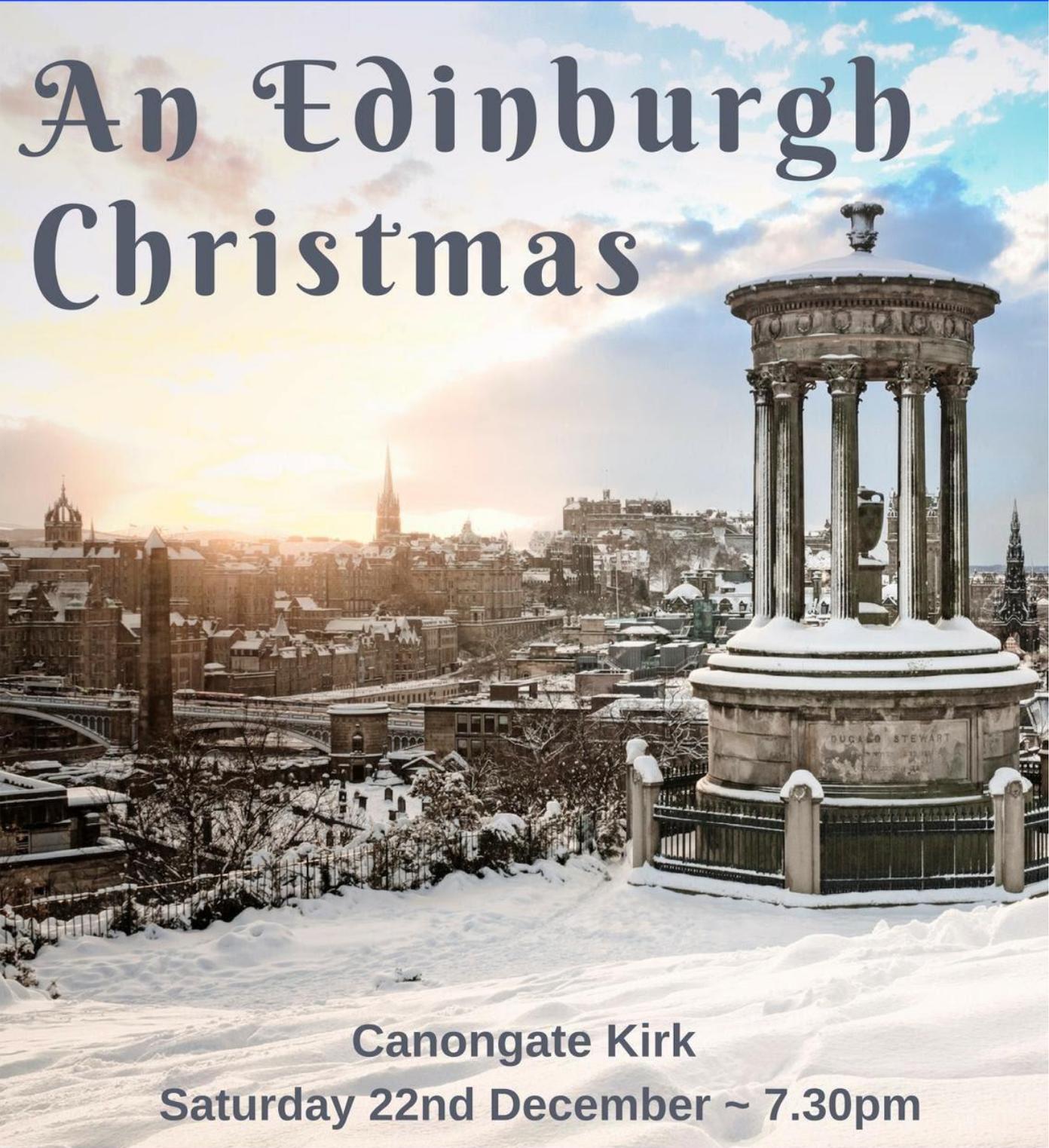


**St Andrew
Camerata**

Directed by Vincent Wallace

www.standrewcamerata.org

An Edinburgh Christmas



Canongate Kirk

Saturday 22nd December ~ 7.30pm