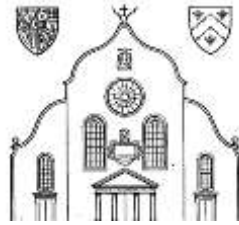


**CANONGATE KIRK  
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE  
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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

**Newsletter December 2022 & January 2023**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian approved the Presbytery Mission Plan that has been a complex work in progress since the General Assembly first insisted on a radical restructuring of the Church of Scotland. As far as Canongate Kirk is concerned, here is the relevant extract from the Plan:

*Canongate and St Giles' should work together in a Parish Grouping as a stepping stone towards a Deferred Union. It will be served by 2 full-time ministers of Word and Sacrament, and will undertake a city-wide missional role to Parliament, Council and Armed Forces, using local staff as necessary. These congregations will respond to common challenges and synergies along the central axis of the Old Town from the Palace to the Castle: these are historic buildings active in tourism (with more than a million visitors each year), pilgrimage, daily services, musical events and concerts, civic and armed services' responsibilities and ecumenical working. Links already exist and there is active planning to share nationally and internationally recognised facilities as well as local knowledge. Both congregations are supportive of a parish grouping but accept that full union is not possible at this time as the complexities are discussed and considered. Buildings: The two churches, given their role in community and civic life, should be retained and designated 'A'. Canongate Hall can serve both congregations and the new congregation, as well as the community, and is thus designated 'A'. 'A' means these buildings will be retained. Something similar is planned for Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's.*

We held our first joint initiative with St Giles', an Evening Service in Canongate on the first Sunday of Advent, appropriately the beginning of the new liturgical year. It is hoped that this will become a monthly event, and that we will find other opportunities to work and to worship more closely together. In the meantime, may I commend to you the details of our own Christmas services this year, and of the charity carol services which members of the congregation are more than welcome to attend. Finally, may I wish you and your families when the time comes a happy and peaceful Christmas.

*Neil Gardner*

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptism

27th November Angus Robert James Cunningham at St Margaret's Chapel  
*"Then he took them in his arms and blessed them."*

### Funerals

18th November	Alan O'Hara	Croft an Righ
22nd November	Kenneth Mearchent	Burton Place
24th November	Richard Dewhurst	Croft an Righ
29th November	Sir Ian Grant	Auchterarder

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

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

This year we will have our traditional service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas at 10.30am on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December. The Watchnight Service begins at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December, and the Christmas Day Family Service is at 10.30am on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December. The following Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, our service will incorporate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Kirk Session has agreed that we will support two charities through our retiring offerings this Christmas: the **Ukrainian Club** in Royal Terrace is a focus for support for Ukrainians both here in Edinburgh and back home; and the **Halo Trust** works to defuse minefields not only in Ukraine but in many other countries around the world. Donations may be sent to the Kirk Office if you would like to contribute but can't attend our Christmas services.

## SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT CAROL SERVICE

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December, the Scottish Parliament will be holding its annual Christmas Carol Service from 6.15pm to approximately 7.30pm. Festive cheer will also be provided in the form of traditional Christmas fare, including mulled wine/fruit juice and mince pies served in the Main Hall following the service. Twenty places are reserved for members of the congregation to attend – please contact the church office with names by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

## CHARITY CAROL SERVICES

Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup> December	6pm	Crisis at Christmas
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup> December	6pm	ABF The Soldiers' Charity
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup> December	4pm	Legion Scotland

## WASHBAGS FOR CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS

We have once again been asked to help supply washbags to Crisis, the local charity for the homeless. These can be brought to church or handed in at the church office up to and including Sunday 18th December. Gender neutral washbags are preferred. However, as this isn't always easy to achieve, washbags for men or women would also be welcome. These can be filled with any selection of toiletries, but no razors or hand sanitisers which contain alcohol. A suggested list of items includes shower-gel, soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, flannel and anything else you would usually expect.

## **TRUSSELL TRUST**

Following our support at Harvest Thanksgiving further donations for Edinburgh foodbanks supported by Trussell Trust of non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries can be brought any Sunday and left in the basket in the foyer.

## **BABY BLANKETS**

For all talented (or enthusiastic) knitters and crocheters. Simpsons Hospital (neo-natal care) is very short of baby blankets, and would be very grateful for any and all donations. Equally, if you have cotton, acrylic, or cotton/acrylic blend yarn you would wish to offer, we may be able to take donations. For more information about measurements, materials and pattern types please contact the church office.

## **STAMPS**

As Christmas cards begin to drop through the letterbox, don't forget that we have had an ongoing collection for used stamps for many years. According to the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council, all stamps collected are first sorted into their respective denominations and then sold on to collectors and dealers from all over the world. The money raised is then used to support charities in developing countries. This year's Stamp Project proceeds aim to raise funds for The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL). NESSL employs more than a thousand people including their pastors. The economic crisis in the country and the consequences of the huge explosion in Beirut has struck hard and the Synod is struggling to pay salaries for pastors which range between £100 to £150 per month. The money raised from stamp collections will go towards supporting a pastor for a full year's salary.

## **AMAZON SMILE**

If you are ordering Christmas presents on-line, don't forget we are registered as a beneficiary of the Amazon Smile scheme, whereby 0.5% of the net cost of purchases you make on Amazon can be donated to us at no extra cost to yourself. To set the ball rolling you need to register at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and nominate Canongate Parish Church of Scotland, Edinburgh as your chosen charity. Please note you need to use our formal Scottish charity name rather than Canongate Kirk.

## **TEA AND COFFEE AFTER CHURCH**

With thanks to those who have already volunteered to help with tea and coffee on a Sunday morning, anyone else wishing to help should give their name to David Croft who will coordinate the rota. The task, delivered in teams of two, should take up no more than 30 minutes of anyone's time and would hopefully be required no more than once every six weeks.

## **TELEPHONE SERVICE**

The weekly service continues to be livestreamed to our website at 10.30am every Sunday and then available online at any time, and may also be heard on a landline telephone – simply dial 0131 546 4001 and press 1 when prompted. Calls are charged at your phone provider's usual local rate – please let anyone know who is unable to access the internet but might appreciate this kind of connection, especially around Christmas time.

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY RETIRING OFFERING**

Thanks to everyone who contributed and raised over £850 for Poppy Scotland.

## ST MARGARET'S DAY

As President of St Margaret's Chapel Guild, the Minister welcomed HRH The Princess Royal, Royal Patron to the annual service in the chapel and meeting in Edinburgh Castle on St Margaret's Day, 16<sup>th</sup> November. A short service in the chapel was pre-recorded and uploaded to our website.

## ST ANDREW'S DAY

The Minister led the Daily Service on BBC Radio 4 (LW) on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The broadcast is available on BBC Sounds for a month <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001fmvs>

## OLD SAINT PAUL'S WEEKLY LUNCH

OSP's is offering a free soup and rolls lunch every Monday from 12.30-2.30. The aim is to offer a warm, convivial space for anyone in the church and wider community who wants it, including people who might want a warm place to work or relax, so the hall will be open for a bit longer than the 12.30 - 2.30 lunch time.

## VETERANS' LUNCH CLUB

603 Sqn is to provide a Monthly Veterans Lunch Club for the next 12 months starting Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 from 11am to 2pm at 603 Sqn HQ, 25 Learmonth Terrace, Edinburgh, EH4 1NZ. Please contact: Sergeant Paul Greenwood on 07583 092701 or email [paul.greenwood195@mod.gov.uk](mailto:paul.greenwood195@mod.gov.uk) The aim is to provide veterans both young and old, ex-regular and ex-reserve with a warm welcoming place to meet once a month where they can have a simple lunch or just a tea/coffee.

## CONCERTS AT CANONGATE IN DECEMBER

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7.30pm Calton Consort**

*Venite Gaudete* conducted by Rory Wilson Tickets £15/£12 on the door.

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm Edinburgh University a Capella**

End of semester Christmas concert. Tickets £4/£3 on the door

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm Open Orchestra**

A Christmas concert including the works of Cunningham, Bizet and Sibelius and conducted by Andrew Lees. Admission FREE (with closing collection)

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm Àirigh Orchestra**

The Àirigh Orchestra celebrates the amazing depth and variety of the Christmas classical concerto in a special festive concert. Tickets £19.50/£12.50 on the door or from

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/airigh-orchestra-christmas-concerto-concert-tickets-461009861907>

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm St Andrew Camerata**

*Christmas on the Royal Mile* including Tchaikovsky, Chilcott, Praetorius and Burnside.

Conducted by Kenneth Taylor Tickets £13/£9 on the door or from

<https://www.usherhall.co.uk/whats-on/st-andrew-camerata-christmas-royal-mile>

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.

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

Scottish Charity SC 015251