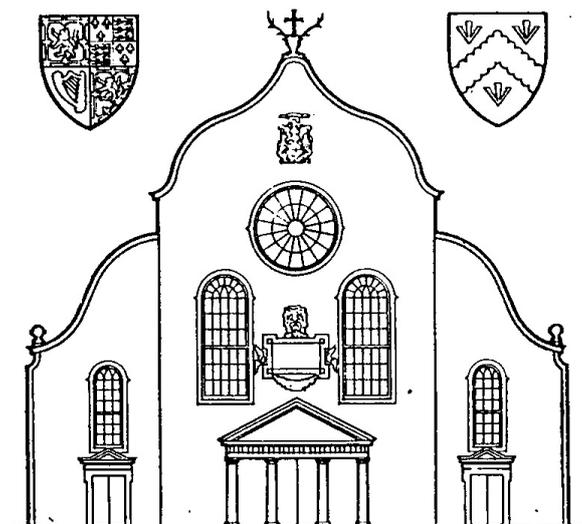


CANONGATE KIRK THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE & EDINBURGH CASTLE

Newsletter
February 2019



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

3 rd February	10:	Family Service
Epiphany 4	11.15	Parish Worship
10 th	10:	Family Service, with Baptism
Epiphany 5	11.15	Parish Worship
17 th	10:	Family Service
3 before Lent	11.15	Parish Worship, with Baptism
24 th	10:	Family Service
2 before Lent	11.15	Parish Worship, with Holy Communion
3 rd March	10:	Family Service, with Baptism
Sunday before Lent	11.15	Parish Worship

Email: canongatekirk@btinternet.com Website: www.canongatekirk.org.uk

 @CanongateKirk

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Scottish Charity SC 015251

PARISH REGISTER

Wedding

8th December Kate Magee & Kristian Turnbull Cranstoun Kirk
“Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide.”

Funeral

28th December Dr Kenneth Grossart Braeburn

Memorial service

19th January Sebastian Thewes Calton Hill
“Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid”

MINISTER’S LETTER

I’m delighted to report that our Christmas Appeal raised over £2,500 for Combat Stress, the chairman of whose Scottish Committee, Major General Patrick Marriott, has sent a hand-written letter asking me to pass on to the Kirk Session and congregation his sincere thanks for their kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity. I assured them that the donation came with our prayers for their ongoing work, and he thanks us for those too. This year marks the centenary of the founding of Combat Stress, in May 1919, originally called the Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Society to help support those who had returned “shell-shocked” from the trenches of the Western Front. For almost exactly a century, they’ve been helping former servicemen and women deal with trauma-related mental health problems such as anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. And although we have made our significant donation, it is still important to offer them our prayers for their ongoing work today. For those who work for the charity and for those whom they support; for all indeed who commit themselves to the welfare of others, whatever the cause of the stress they have to combat.

SOUP LUNCH

The first of our popular soup lunches of 2019 will be held on Tuesday 5th February in the Harry Younger Hall at 12 noon. There is always a choice of two home-made soups, crusty bread and butter, tea, coffee and biscuits. Also included in the small charge of £2 is a game of bingo and a quiz. It is appreciated that not everyone wants to play bingo and if that is the case there will be no problem if you decide to leave after tea/coffee. Come along and bring a friend!

BIBLE STUDY

Our weekly sessions resume on Wednesday 6th February at 11am in the meeting room of the Manse, at 95 Canongate. As always, these are not intended to be academic tutorials and last less than an hour. By way of preparation for Lent and Holy Week, this next short series will focus on some of the disciples of Jesus: Andrew, Peter, James & John, and Judas, and will lead into a Lent Study Group beginning on Ash Wednesday, 6th March. All are welcome.

BURNS SUPPER

Our annual Burns Supper will take place on Thursday 7th February in the Harry Younger Hall. This is an unmissable event and always very popular. Tickets cost £12 each and are available from the following committee members: John Fanning, Etta Geekie and Fiona Grant.

KIRK SESSION

The next meeting of the Kirk Session will take place in the Harry Younger Hall at 6pm on Monday 25th February.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERT

As a final organised Kirk Appeal fundraising effort and to mark the 12-month stage of what has been a remarkable fundraising effort on the part of the whole congregation, some of the younger members of our congregation have agreed to organise a congregational concert to take place in the Kirk on Friday 8th March 2019 commencing at 7pm. Tickets priced £10 (£5 for students and children free) are now available and can be purchased from Ally Collins, Josep Marti I Bouis or the Session Clerk. Already two members of the congregation have indicated their willingness to match any income from the concert, up to a maximum of £750 each. If we are able to sell just 75 tickets at £10 each, then this would guarantee additional funds to the Appeal of at least £2,250. Please consider supporting and attending the concert, at which refreshments will be provided and an opportunity for fun and fellowship is assured. **Join the Choir for the Congregational Concert!** A short term "fun choir" drawn from members and friends of Canongate Kirk is to be set up to participate in the forthcoming Congregational Concert. The choir will sing some modern songs and members need not be able to read music. It will however be necessary for members to attend rehearsals in the Kirk at 7pm on Fridays from 8th February to 8th March. Rehearsals will last about an hour. Anyone interested in participating should speak with Ally, Josep or the Session Clerk.

BUILDING REPAIR UPDATE

All matters relating to the Kirk Building Repair Programme are now progressing apace. A preferred contractor has been selected and work will begin early in April. Additional necessary work to repair the vast majority of the windows has been identified which although increasing the value of the contract by around £20,000, remains within our budgetary capabilities. These budgetary capabilities have been significantly enhanced by the extraordinary generosity of the members of the congregation and other friends of Canongate to the tune so far of £110K. **In addition, we have this week been advised of the award of a Grant of £100k from Scottish Environmental Heritage (SEH),** a remarkable and very welcome contribution that will significantly reduce the anticipated serious drain on the Kirk's financial reserves and allow us to consider what opportunities the on-site builders' resources might present to address additional work necessary to ensure the long term future of our precious Kirk building.

ROYAL MILE PRIMARY SCHOOL

January saw a happy increase in our links to our local primary school, the Royal Mile Primary School. One of our members has started to go into school to teach some of the older children how to knit and we are attending the school's Annual Art Gallery exhibition on the theme of *Dreaming of our Future* on Friday 8th February. The school has also asked us to be their partner in a potential new community inter-generational project run by the charity OAK Note Theatre Group, funding permitting. The aim of the project is to connect local children with some of our older people who grew up in the area post WW2. The hope is that memories and stories can be shared and retained through film and art work.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual service marking the World Day of Prayer will take place locally on Friday 1st March 2019 – further details to follow.

ARMY BAND LUNCHTIME CONCERT

The Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland will be giving a lunchtime concert on Friday 1st March at 1pm. Entry is free. There will be a retiring collection.

FETTES COLLEGE CONCERT

On March 2nd, Canongate Kirk will host the Music Scholars from Fettes College who will be giving an evening recital starting at 7:30pm for around an hour. All are welcome to come to support this; entry is free, and a retiring collection in aid of the Canongate Appeal will be taken at the end.

DUTY ELDERS FOR FEBRUARY

Stuart McFarlane	Fiona Grant	Polly Burns
Robert Watson	Colin Stewart	Jacky McFarlane
Rachel Wright	Jane Stewart	Daniel McKinney

DUTY ELDERS FOR MARCH

Anne Baker	Rie Stevenson	Mark Peel
Anne Croft	Martin Baker	Gavin Brydone
Kate Church	Etta Geekie	Dinah Croy
Alexis Moyer		

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