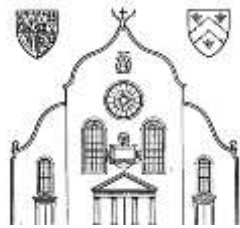


**CANONGATE KIRK  
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE  
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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

**Newsletter February 2023**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

This year marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Adam Smith, in Kirkcaldy in 1723. Although the distinguished economist and philosopher went on to gain both a national and international reputation which will undoubtedly be celebrated around the world in due course, we can lay our own more local claim on the great man as the most famous “resident” of our Kirkyard! His burial there in 1790 was probably conducted by the Revd Robert Walker, better known from Henry Raeburn’s iconic painting as the Skating Minister. The funeral was in July, so it shouldn’t have got in the way of any skating.

In proposing the toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns at our Kirk Burns Supper on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, I tried to make something of the connection between Burns and Smith even though they never actually met one another. Smith was still living in our parish at Panmure House when Burns first came to Edinburgh in 1786, but in such poor health that a meeting was not possible. Still, after reading *The Wealth of Nations* Burns was to write “*I could not have given any mere man credit for half the intelligence Mr Smith displays in his book*”. And their mutual friend Mrs Frances Dunlop once wrote a letter to Burns in which she said of Smith “*He was one of those who first held forth your name forcibly to the public at Edinburgh when very few had seen your book, and my son told me he was the person he heard take the most interest in your future prospects...*”

Surrounded as we are by such a strong sense of Scottish history and heritage in the Canongate, it’s essential to keep the “future prospects” of the Kirk in mind. It’s exactly a year since I first referred to the Presbytery Mission Plan requiring congregations to work more closely together. As part of that process we have now established a joint monthly evening service in Canongate Kirk with our friends from St Giles’ – the next one scheduled for 7pm on 26<sup>th</sup> February, the First Sunday of Lent – and as we look ahead to the preparatory season of Lent, I commend it, along with our regular Sunday morning services, to your support.

*Neil Gardner*

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptism

15<sup>th</sup> January

William Laurence Stewart Waring

*“Then he took them in his arms and blessed them.”*

### Wedding

23<sup>rd</sup> December

Kimberley Peters & Gregory Farmer

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

### Funerals

26<sup>th</sup> January

Kenneth Mitchell

Gray’s Court

27<sup>th</sup> January

Judith Roberts

Croft an Righ

### Memorial Service

2<sup>nd</sup> December

Sir Ian Grant

Auchterarder

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

## NEWS FROM THE KIRK SESSION

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January the Kirk Session were pleased to welcome Claire Churchill, Euan McCorquodale, Elise Ramsay and Miriam Weibye to our number. Each of them has made a valuable contribution to the life of Canongate Kirk over a number of years and we are glad to have them join us. Our next ordinary meeting will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February. The Kirk Session continue to be very grateful to all members of the congregation for their generosity in terms of financial giving and we are encouraged by consistently healthy numbers attending services. We would like to extend special thanks to those who continue to give so generously of their time and talents in arranging flowers, livestreaming services, arranging social events and serving teas and coffees after Sunday worship. If you wish to contribute in any of these ways please speak to one of the Elders on duty by the door.

## BURNS SUPPER

Over 70 members and friends of the congregation gathered in the Harry Younger Hall for our Burns Supper earlier this month, the first in four years. The haggis was piped in by Euan McCorquodale and addressed by Cammy Goodall. In the course of the evening Cammy also recited *Epistle to a Young Friend* and *Death and Dr Hornbook* and sang *Ae Fond Kiss* to its original setting. The Toast to the Lassies was proposed by Donald Smith and Sheena McDonald replied. The happy evening ended with the company singing Auld Lang Syne.

## ORGAN RECITALS

With our own organist Simon Leach having given a powerful recital at St Giles’ Cathedral last month, the next will be given by our former organist David Goodenough at 6pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February in the Cathedral. Admission free with optional donation. Further details from

<https://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events-cal>

## CRAFT CLUB

The first meeting of our new Craft Club will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February from 6.30pm - 8.00pm in the Harry Younger Hall. The aim of the first session is just to get together and see what everyone would like to do. Those that want to come along can bring their own projects (knitting, crochet, sewing etc.) or just themselves if they'd like to learn and socialise.

## 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.

## **TRUSSELL TRUST**

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

## **STAMPS**

Don't forget that we also have an ongoing collection for used stamps. 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.

## **CHRISTMAS APPEALS**

The Kirk Session decided that our recent Christmas appeal would be divided between the work of the Ukrainian Club here in Edinburgh and the Halo Trust's work in and around Ukraine and elsewhere. Nearly £2000 was raised and the following extracts are from the thank you letters we have received:

From Major General (Ret'd) James M Cowan CBE DSO, Chief Executive Officer, HALO Trust:

*I'd really like to thank the members of the Kirk for their generosity on behalf of The HALO Trust. Few people know that with 13,000 employees, HALO is Scotland's largest NGO, with those staff working in 30 countries around the world, all controlled from a small headquarters in Dumfriesshire. I am sure that your congregation can relate to the serious nature of our work in recent times. From our largest programme in Afghanistan (where we employ 3,000 people) to Ukraine where the grim reality of war means that our support is needed more urgently than ever, we are present in most of the most conflict affected countries in the world. Please will you pass on my thanks to all those who made this donation possible on behalf of our many beneficiaries around the world.*

From Linda Allison, Treasurer, Ukrainian Club:

*Thank you and your congregation so much for your very generous donation to support the displaced Ukrainians here in the Edinburgh area. We, and they, are indebted to your kindness. We will use the donation to continue to support them by offering free community lunches and other social and cultural events. Thank you once again.*

And finally from the team at Crisis, Edinburgh:

*Please pass on our thanks to your congregation who generously donated over 60 washbags full of toiletries, these were gratefully received by our members at Christmas time.*

## **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. It's shown on a sheet on the Kirk foyer notice board, so please check there to see if there are any gaps. 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.

## **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.

## **TELL ME GOOD THINGS**

You might like to know that James Runcie has written a poignant book "on love, death and marriage" in memory of his late wife Marilyn, whose funeral and memorial service were conducted by the Minister. Neil is mentioned in the book, as is Canongate Kirk.

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>			
Website: <a href="http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk">www.canongatekirk.org.uk</a>		 @CanongateKirk	 @canongate.kirk
Scottish Charity SC 015251			