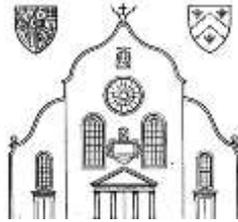


**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**
www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Newsletter February 2022



MINISTER'S LETTER

The Presbytery of Edinburgh put its long-awaited Presbytery Mission Plan out for consultation in December 2021. It represents a 40% reduction in the number of Ministers, Deacons and Ministries Development staff operating across the city and insists that as a result “congregations can no longer act in isolation but will instead work together, sharing resources and encouraging and supporting each other...each parish will be part of a Mission District, a local network of churches inspiring, influencing and leading mission and ministry.”

Within our own city-centre Mission District, it is anticipated that the two churches on the Royal Mile – Canongate Kirk and St Giles’ Cathedral – will work towards union by the end of 2025, but crucially both buildings will be retained and served by two Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The Minister of Canongate is expected “to deliver a city-wide Ministry to the Parliament, Council and Armed Forces communities.” To some extent this is already part of the unofficial job description, but is now being put in writing.

There are no congregations in Edinburgh that are unaffected by this Mission Plan, many more obviously than ours. In most cases three churches are expected to unite, in several cases four, and few of these unions will be served by the same number of Ministers as before. The plan is not yet set in stone, and there will be further consultations and adjustments before it is expected to be agreed later this year, but inevitably it leaves a number of Ministers deeply unsettled and a number of congregations seriously anxious about how they will be affected both in the short and longer term.

In the meantime, the Minister of St Giles’ and I are talking regularly about ways in which we can work together. Very soon these conversations will include representatives of both congregations and we will keep everyone up and down the Royal Mile informed as to progress and prospects.

With all good wishes and every blessing,

Neil Gardner

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

5th December Theodore Charles Ernest Young
19th December Ernest Cosmo de Castelbajac-Anderson
30th January Louie Peter Currie

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

Wedding

29th January Catriona Simpson & Alexander Pickthall

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

Funerals

7th December Johan Young Pleasance
10th December Daniel Wilson Dumbiedykes Road

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

ABSENT FRIENDS

Sadly, Dee Hunter died, after a short illness, on 31st December. An experienced tour-guide, Dee first came to Canongate through her interest in our history and heritage and drove in from Ratho to attend services every so often. She also helped with Open Kirk and various fundraising efforts over the years and attended some Bible Study sessions. At Dee’s own request there was no funeral service. Meanwhile there is to be a Memorial Service for Lucy Scillitoe at 12 noon on Tuesday 22nd February in Canongate Kirk. Lucy moved south in 2020 but had been very much part of our church family for several years before that, helping with fund-raising and not least cleverly making and generously supplying the brightly-coloured face masks that were made available to the congregation when the church reopened after the first lockdown. As at this time we give thanks both for Dee and for Lucy, we remember gratefully their quiet support and encouragement along the way.

NEW YEAR’S HONOURS LIST

Some happier congregational news: warm congratulations are due to Claire Anderson MVO, who was made a Member of the Royal Victorian Order in recognition of her work as Assistant Retail and Admissions Manager at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

CHRISTMAS APPEALS

Many thanks to everyone who helped raise over £900 to be divided between Crossreach, the Church of Scotland social care wing, and Population Matters, a UK-based charity working globally to achieve a better future for people and planet. In letters acknowledging these donations, Izi Clery, Fundraising Manager for Population Matters, writes: *‘Thanks to your generous contribution, we will be able to engage more people with the cause, both individually and collectively, through our campaigning, advocacy and education work.’* And Fiona Sutherland from the Crossreach fundraising team writes in an email; *‘Your donation enables us to make immediate positive impacts on the lives of those we are working with so that every person can flourish and every life can be lived to the full.’* Many thanks too to everyone who brought well over sixty washbags which were transferred to Crisis in time for Christmas. Meanwhile Streetwork have been in touch to say they really need warm gloves, socks, hats, and boxer shorts. These must be new and can be left in the basket in the kirk foyer.

STAMPS

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. The current beneficiary is The Women's Development Centre (WDC) in Kandy, Sri Lanka, which runs a project to support women and girls who have been victims of rape and sexual violence.

FWO ENVELOPES FOR 2022

These are now available for collection. If you don't have weekly free will offering envelopes at the moment, but would like them, please get in touch with the Treasurer, Jenifer Davidson. Many of our members now give directly, for which we are very grateful, and if anyone would like to discuss this option please also have a word with Jenifer.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Grateful thanks are due to Etta Geekie, who is retiring after many years of faithfully representing our congregation at this annual event. The next World Day of Prayer is 4th March, with the local service taking place in the Central Edinburgh Methodist Church, Nicolson Square. If you might like to represent Canongate Kirk in this way, please speak to the Minister or get in touch with the office.

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.

CONCERT FOR FEBRUARY

On Monday 21st February at 3pm, Framlingham College Choir will be giving a free concert. All welcome.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF LOCAL FESTIVALS

Hidden Door is a volunteer-run arts festival based in Edinburgh. Since 2014 they have held an annual multi arts festival in unusual or disused spaces across the city, celebrating the best new and emerging creative talent in Scotland today. This year the event will be in the former Royal High School building on Regent Road. 9th June – 18th June. For tickets and more information visit <https://hiddendoorarts.org/old-royal-high-school-revealed-as-2022-venue/>

The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Festival is back this year from 14th - 20th August and it's bigger and better than ever - celebrating music, painting, poetry and drama. Participating venues include Canongate Kirk, Old Saint Paul's, Sacred Heart Jesuit Church, St Vincent's Chapel in Stockbridge, St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, and Mansfield Traquair Centre, home to the stunning murals by Phoebe Traquair. Follow Edinburgh Sacred Arts Festival on Facebook and Twitter @SacredArtsFest for updates on the 2022 programme or visit <https://www.edinburghsacredartsfestival.org>

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Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	canongatekirk@btinternet.com	0131 556 3515

Usual Office Opening Hours: Mon, Wed 9am – 2pm, Fri 8am – 1pm.

Website: www.canongatekirk.org.uk  @CanongateKirk  @canongate.kirk
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