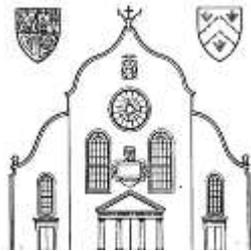


**CANONGATE KIRK**  
**THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE**  
**& EDINBURGH CASTLE**  
[www.canongatekirk.org.uk](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk)  
**Newsletter February 2021**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

There are so many striking images by which Captain Sir Tom Moore will long be remembered. His completing the marathon lengths of the garden that raised an astonishing amount of money for charity. His being awarded the rank of Honorary Colonel. His enjoying a flypast of WW2 aircraft on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. And of course his being knighted by a beaming Queen in the Quadrangle of Windsor Castle. But I like to think that one of his lasting legacies will be his unfailing optimism. “Tomorrow will be a good day” was a mantra that stood him in good stead all through his long life, not just its final extraordinary year. And it was one that was surely forged in the grim days of war in the Far East, where over and over again a better prospect the next day was all the Forgotten Army had to cling to. The Burma Star amongst the medals clinking on Captain Sir Tom’s regimental blazer was a striking enough image in itself.

The grim days we are still enduring bear no resemblance to those, yet we can still find encouragement in his spirit of optimism. “Tomorrow will be a good day” is much more than a weather forecast in this wintry spell, even though it reminds me of Vera Lynn’s old song:

*It's a lovely day tomorrow, tomorrow is a lovely day;  
Come and feast your tear-dimmed eyes on tomorrow's clear blue skies.  
If today your heart is weary, if every little thing looks gray,  
Just forget your troubles and learn to say tomorrow is a lovely day.*

The religious equivalent is surely a line in the much loved hymn “Great is thy faithfulness” - *strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow*. It’s always been one of my favourite lines, and I’ve often called it to mind when confronted by particular challenges and difficulties. Because it simply reminds us of the source of strength and hope to be found far beyond ourselves in our faithful God, who is ready to bless us every new day. *Morning by morning new mercies I see*, despite the challenges and difficulties that come our way. It is God who gives us strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, it is God whose generous love and great faithfulness mean that tomorrow will be a good day. God willing.

## PARISH REGISTER

### Funerals

1<sup>st</sup> February

Peter Dourley

Castlegreen Care Home

2<sup>nd</sup> February

Ross Douglas

Canongate

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

### WORSHIP FROM AFAR

In line with the announcement made in the Scottish Parliament on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, there is currently no Sunday service in Canongate Kirk – or any other place of worship – for the foreseeable future. In the meantime, a weekly pre-recorded service will be uploaded to our website every weekend. These services 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. You should also bear in mind that Canongate volunteers stand ready, once again, to help with the delivery of shopping or medicines to those who could do with this kind of support. Please let the office know if you or someone you know might come into that category.

### LENT STUDY GROUP

This year Lent begins on (Ash) Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February. We won’t be able to meet as we usually do for a Lent/Bible Study Group but it is hoped that something can be arranged online. Details to follow!

### BBC REPORT

Our very own Jimmy Robertson was featured in a recent BBC piece for the news and website about life on the Canongate during lockdown. Follow this link to see more

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-55921962> but contact Jimmy direct for his autograph!

### OFFERINGS

A number of members have asked for Canongate Kirk’s bank details so that they can arrange electronic transfers or other means of direct giving to continue to support the Church’s work during the pandemic. If you’d like those details please e-mail [canongatekirk@btinternet.com](mailto:canongatekirk@btinternet.com) and we’ll pass them on. Donations can also be given via our website. Meanwhile if you usually give via weekly envelopes, the new ones for 2021 have just arrived and should be available soon - please save them up at home and we’ll get them eventually! We are also now 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.

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

*The office is currently closed but Imogen continues to work from home: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9am – 1pm*

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

Scottish Charity SC 015251