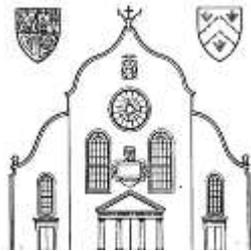


CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE
www.canongatekirk.org.uk
Newsletter January 2021



MINISTER'S LETTER

I always keep Christmas cards for a year, in a box in the bottom drawer of a desk in the Manse. It's only when they're ready to be replaced by the latest batch that I finally consign them to the recycling bin. Before doing that the other day I couldn't help flicking through the cards that came in 2019 and reading some of the messages friends had scribbled inside, invariably expressing the usual hopes of meeting up in 2020 and looking forward to family holidays, significant life events and assorted adventures in the course of the coming year. None of us had the slightest idea of just what that year would bring. What a difference a year makes! Messages in the latest cards are much more cautious, expressing the same sense of frustration and uncertainty that we all share these days.

I'm always struck by the line in St Matthew's Gospel that brings the Christmas story to an end. The wise men have just offered their gifts to the Christ child, *'and having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.'* They were far from home and anxious to return to all that was familiar and normal and I like to think that the other road they took was not just because they finally realised what Herod was up to, but because of what they had just witnessed and whom they had just worshipped in Bethlehem. A road on which their perspectives had changed, their expectations and their attitudes too.

Similarly, the road we take back – hopefully – to what is familiar and normal, is a different one this new year. We cannot with confidence look ahead to holidays, significant life events and adventures as we did before. But we can still make it a road on which our perspective has changed, and our expectations and our attitudes. Taking less for granted as we go, we can acknowledge anew the key workers in hospitals and nursing homes, supermarkets and schools, bin lorries and delivery trucks. We can cast fresh eyes on the plight of those individuals most in need of our help and support and understanding. We can give thanks for the sophisticated skills of the scientists and researchers that have brought the vaccine within reach. And who knows, we might just find that this other road represents a better and a gentler way after all?

May I wish you and yours a happy and a healthy New Year.

PARISH REGISTER

Funerals

29th December

Nigel Buchan-Watt

Upper Grove Place

5th January

Lou Storie

Granby Road

“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 4th January 2021, there will now be 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.

INDUCTIONS BY ZOOM

Rev Breda Ludik was duly inducted to the charge of St Andrew’s-Lhanbryd and Urquhart in the Presbytery of Moray on Thursday 17th December 2020. The service was conducted entirely online on Zoom, and it was great to see members of the Ludik family joining in from South Africa, as well as members of our own congregational family in Canongate. We continue to wish Breda and Francé well as they settle into their new life under challenging circumstances. On Sunday 17th January 2021 the Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth is due to be inducted, now also entirely via Zoom, to Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church, which Neil has served as Interim Moderator since the departure of the Revd Dr Scott McKenna for Ayr: St Columba in 2019. Similarly, we wish Sandy and his wife Joy well as they negotiate all the current restrictions to move to Edinburgh and embark on this exciting new chapter even at this challenging time.

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 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 not yet arrived but 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 0131 556 3515

Kirk Secretary Imogen Gibson (office) 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  @CanongateKirk  @canongate.kirk

Scottish Charity SC 015251