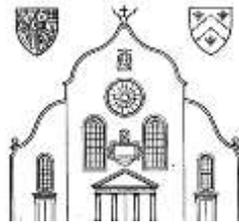


**CANONGATE KIRK**  
**THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE**  
**& EDINBURGH CASTLE**  
[www.canongatekirk.org.uk](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk)

**Newsletter July 2022**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

I've not been to the Zoo since I was a schoolboy, but I have rather uncomfortable memories of watching mangy animals pacing around their cages with the occasional reluctant excursion into their enclosure for fresh air and so-called exercise. I'm sure it's a lot better these days, but it's a memory that's come flooding back to haunt me since testing positive for Covid 19. Pacing around the house for days with the occasional trip round the enclosure of the back garden. It could have been a lot worse of course. My housemate kindly stocked me up with enough food to feed The Black Watch, before beating a hasty retreat for his own protection. I had to cancel plans to attend meetings of the College of Deans and Grand Council of the Order of St John in London, but I was able to join in some of the sessions online from home. Douglas Reid and Elspeth McPheat were ready and willing to step into the breach of my enforced absence to conduct Sunday services, and I'm very grateful to them both for their support. At the time of writing I'm feeling a good deal better, my sense of taste and smell is returning gradually and most importantly I'm no longer finding the dreaded double line on a lateral flow test!

It's a more subtle warning than the bell that it is said lepers used to be required to carry in mediaeval times, so that folk knew they were coming. My temporary isolation has been nothing like theirs, but I can't help reconsidering the lepers of New Testament times. They were among the outcasts of society, confined to colonies on the margins, but Jesus refused to exclude them from his love and his care. During the week's deliberations by the Order of St John, much reference was made to a phrase first uttered by Gerard of Jerusalem, one of the first Knights Hospitaller and founder of the Order in the early twelfth century. He used to refer to "our lords the sick and the poor" as a reminder to his fellow Knights of where their primary responsibilities lay. The phrase was once again used to prioritise the Order's work around the world today and not least in Jerusalem and Gaza, but it could equally be applied to the Church's work and witness around the world, a reminder of the timeless Christian call to service to the sick and the poor.

*To the lost Christ shows his face,  
To the unloved he gives his embrace,  
To those who cry in pain or disgrace,  
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.*

## PARISH REGISTER

### Renewal of Vows

16<sup>th</sup> June Ken & Claire McCracken USA  
*“Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide.”*

### Funerals

9<sup>th</sup> June Jill Knox Woodcroft Road  
14<sup>th</sup> June Ian Reilly Lismore Crescent  
*“Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”*

## FLOWER CONVENER

After thirty years of arranging and co-ordinating flowers at Canongate Kirk, Anne Baker has decided to step down from the role. As a congregation, we are hugely grateful for everything she has done to enhance the sanctuary whether for regular Sunday services or for special occasions and for the pleasure her flowers have brought to so many people both in church and at home afterwards. Looking ahead, there must be others in the congregation - or its wider circle - who might be willing to help with flowers in church on a regular or occasional basis. If that's the case, please get in touch with the office and we'll arrange a meeting after the summer holidays for anyone who's interested. Many thanks, but most of all to Anne for all that she has done over the years.

## KIRK GATE

After many years of allowing a set of keys to Canongate Kirk and Kirkyard to be collected from the Museum of Edinburgh opposite, the City Council has now changed its policy and the padlock! This is partly to discourage unauthorized parking by Council employees in the Kirkyard, and partly to mark the distinction between Bereavement Services and Museums & Galleries. We're very grateful to the staff at the Museum of Edinburgh (formerly Huntly House) for their support over the years. Looking ahead, those of our members and office-bearers who hold previously issued sets of keys for one reason or another need to be aware that they can no longer unlock the gate. Access will now need to be arranged via the church office.

## OPEN KIRK

With restrictions easing and visitors on the Royal Mile increasing, we restarted Open Kirk on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May. We continue to focus on Sunday afternoons primarily and volunteers are encouraged to sign up for slots from 12-2pm or from 2-4pm on the board in the Kirk foyer. The hope is that the first shift might appeal to someone who has come to church and could stay on for a while after the service. But if you can help at other times that's good too, and the board in the foyer now includes weekdays as well. Just please be aware of the times when the church is already booked for concerts and events. These are marked on the board and can also be seen in our online calendar on the website. If you have not helped to welcome visitors and tourists before, and would like to find out more, please have a word with Lesley Wallace, our Open Kirk Co-ordinator.

## SAFEGUARDING

As part of the Kirk Session's legal responsibilities as Trustees, a number of elders recently underwent online training on the important subject of safeguarding – essentially the protection of children and vulnerable adults who come to church services and events. As we emerge from the pandemic determined that everyone should continue to feel safe within our walls, it is essential that in this regard too everyone should feel safe and be aware of the structures in place to offer support. Dinah Croy is our safe-guarding co-ordinator and anyone who would

like to know more, or raise any specific concerns, should speak with her in the first instance or with any member of the Kirk Session.

## **BOOKS FOR BORROWING**

Did you know that in the foyer cupboard at the Kirk there is a shelf of books with particular relevance to Canongate that can be borrowed by anyone, not least newcomers to the church or parish? Some of them specifically tell the history of our church and parish, others focus on military connections or other associations – the latest additions include a book by Heidi Kuhn, who recently gave a talk on her charity work turning minefields into vineyards in Afghanistan, and *Celebrating Seventy-Five Years 1947 – 2022*, an oral history of St John Scotland, its work and its volunteers.

## **CONCERTS IN JULY**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm.** Bishop Vesey Grammar School from England. Admission free.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.** Union Chancel Choir from South Carolina, USA. *Why we Sing (His Eye is on the Sparrow)* Admission free.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.** Beaconsfield High School Choirs. Sacred and traditional choral music. Admission free.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.** Knole Academy. Choir, orchestra and band play modern and traditional classics. Admission free.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm.** Coombe Girls School choir and orchestra perform sacred and secular works. Admission free.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.** An organ recital by Paul Stubbings as part of the Incorporated Association of Organists' Music Festival 2022. Tickets on the door: £16 or from [www.ticketsoxford.com](http://www.ticketsoxford.com)

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL REPORT**

A General Assembly report will feature in the July issue of Life and Work magazine. Anyone that is not a subscriber and interested in this particular issue can purchase a single print or digital copy at <https://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe/subscribe>

## **QR CODE**

We remain hugely grateful to everyone who has supported Canongate Kirk financially by various methods over the last two challenging years. The contactless machine in the foyer has come in very handy, but it's worth noting that we are unable to claim Gift Aid on donations that come in via this means. If you regularly donate via the contactless machine and would like the congregation to claim Gift Aid on your donation, at no further cost to yourself, please have a word with Jenifer Davidson, our Treasurer. Meanwhile we have a new means of facilitating donations to Canongate Kirk, using this QR code. When scanned with your smart phone it will take you straight to our digital donations page.



## **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.

## QUEEN'S GALLERY EXHIBITION

*Masterpieces of Buckingham Palace*: a chance to enjoy some of the greatest paintings from the Royal Collection, with works by Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Rubens and Artemisia removed from the Picture Gallery at Buckingham Palace and temporarily displayed at The Queen's Gallery, Edinburgh. This wonderful show gives visitors a rare opportunity to get close to these masterpieces and find out why the newspapers are calling it: *Pure magic* ★★★★★ (The Scotsman); *An unmissable event* (The Guardian); *one of the world's most spectacular collections* (The Times). Tickets and information: <https://bit.ly/3sHW0Ji> Until 25<sup>th</sup> September.

## EXPLORING EDINBURGH

Last year, Luath Press published a book about the architecture of Edinburgh, *Exploring Edinburgh* by Robin Ward, which features Canongate Kirk among other Edinburgh landmarks. Each building in the book is photographed and its architecture and history explored in a fascinating and compelling way. Copies can be ordered at £10.99 direct from the publisher at <https://www.luath.co.uk/> with 20% off orders over £20 using the code LUATH2020 and 30% off over £50 with LUATH3050.

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