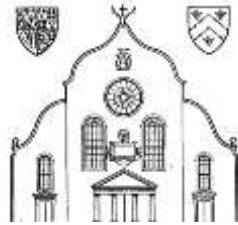


**CANONGATE KIRK  
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE  
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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

**Newsletter July 2023**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

Earlier this month our Kirk Session held an 'away day' - or at least part of a day - at the Learning Centre in the newly refurbished Abbey Strand building just outside the main gate of the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The Abbey Strand has a wonderfully varied history, from its earliest days in the late fifteenth century when it possibly served as a mansion for the Abbot of Holyrood Abbey, to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries when it housed a lively mix of shops, pubs, tearooms and crowded lodgings. The St James Quarter of its day?! In between, it provided sanctuary to over 6,500 individuals taking refuge from their debtors, and before that, during the reigns of Mary, Queen of Scots, and James VI, courtiers and ambassadors stayed there when the monarch was in residence at the Palace. The building is not open to the public, but the Physic Garden behind it, a recreation of an old layout, is well worth a visit at this time of year.

At this time of year the gardens inside the grounds of the Palace of Holyroodhouse are at their colourful best in anticipation of Royal Week, when the monarch will be in residence once again. I remember once being hugely impressed to discover the rose garden at Balmoral was timed to be in full bloom in September, late in the season by normal standards but in perfect time for the arrival of Her late Majesty. As with Trooping the Colour the other day, this year's Royal Week will be The King's first as monarch. Sadly we won't see His Majesty in Canongate Kirk as he won't be here on a Sunday, but he will host the usual round of engagements, audiences, investitures and of course the Garden Party. And there will be the added spectacle of a carriage procession up the Royal Mile for a Service of Thanksgiving in St Giles' Cathedral, in the course of which The King will receive the Honours of Scotland.

Unlike the roses at Balmoral, we've produced this newsletter unusually early this month to accommodate office holidays. Whether you are heading off on holiday, or staying at home, I hope you can get a chance to enjoy some more summer weather and something of a break from the usual routine.

*Neil Gardner*

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

4<sup>th</sup> June Georgina Susan Russell

11<sup>th</sup> June William Charles Stuart Turnbull

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

### Wedding Blessing

24<sup>th</sup> June Alexis Moyer & Duncan Anderson

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

### Funerals

5<sup>th</sup> June Sandra Adamson Neill Edinburgh

13<sup>th</sup> June Margaret Henry Aldershot

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

## EVENING SERVICES

Our monthly united evening services with St Giles’ will continue through the summer, taking place at 7pm on Sundays 25<sup>th</sup> June and 30<sup>th</sup> July here in Canongate Kirk. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome to these short reflective services.

## CRAFT CLUB

Our Craft Club meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month, with the next meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July from 6.30 – 8pm in the Harry Younger Hall. All crafters (and non-crafters) welcome!

## KIRK SESSION UPDATE

On Saturday 3 June the Kirk Session had the privilege and pleasure of meeting for a Planning Day at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. We are very grateful to the Palace staff for their generous hospitality and for giving us such a wonderful opportunity to go out into the Parish and take our work beyond our buildings. Many fruitful discussions were had in an informal atmosphere, away from the Agenda of our ordinary meetings, with a particular focus on pastoral care and our relationship with other congregations and our Parish. This allowed us the opportunity to share ideas, both in small groups and whole-room discussions, which will now be taken forward for further consideration and planning. We also had the opportunity to receive a tour of the Kirk’s former premises - Holyrood Abbey - and to learn more about our history. It is said that one must be mindful of the past if one is to successfully plan for the future and so there was something very appropriate about laying the foundations of our future in the place where our story began, particularly as we consider our 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2028. The views of our congregation will be an important part of this process and so do please share your own ideas with an Elder or the Minister. We are also pleased to report that Miriam Weibye will serve as the Kirk’s representative to the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian, succeeding Jane Stewart whom we thank for her valuable service in this role.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY FREE ON-LINE SUPPLEMENT

Life and Work magazine have issued a free four-page summary of the key decisions, debates and speeches from the General Assembly which can be downloaded and shared:

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-2023-special-supplement>



## OPEN KIRK

Canongate Kirk has been awarded a financial grant from the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian to go towards a summer student internship. We hope to have this in place to enable the church to be open daily to visitors on weekdays during the months of July and

August. Volunteers are still welcome to help out at weekends, particularly on Saturday afternoons as we are fortunate to have regular support on Sunday afternoons at the moment. If you can help, please add your name to the list at the back of the church or have a word with Lesley Wallace for more information.

## CYCLE RACE

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August, the 2023 UCI Men's Elite Road Race will take place starting in Holyrood Park and progressing through the Old Town to finish in Glasgow. As a result the Canongate will be affected by parking restrictions and the road is expected to be closed from 09.30 until 10am. For more information nearer the time visit [www.cyclingworldchamps.com/getready](http://www.cyclingworldchamps.com/getready)

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Scottish Charity SC 015251			

## EDINBURGH FRINGE 2023: CONCERTS AT CANONGATE KIRK

### **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm Scottish Meditation Orchestra**

*Piano Meditations* Exploring the connection between music, meditation and mental health with live orchestra, piano, tea ceremonies, bells and guided meditations.

### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 1pm Simon Leach and Benedict Holland**

*Summer Recital – Violin and Piano* Popular pieces by Tchaikovsky, Handel, Delius and contemporary Scottish composer Helen Leach performed by our resident organist Simon Leach and concert violinist Benedict Holland.

### **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 5pm Rock Festival Choir**

*The Spirit and the Light* Alnwick's highly regarded chamber choir perform a spine-tingling programme of 20<sup>th</sup>/21st-century choral classics including Chilcott's toe-tapping Jazz Mass.

### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August 10pm St Andrew Camerata**

*Fauré's Requiem* Atmospheric, late-night performances of Gabriel Fauré's much-loved Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine, with orchestra. Directed by Robert Dick, these very popular shows are the perfect way to wind down from a day at the festival: book early!

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2pm Glee Club**

*Glee Club UK Adult Community Choir* This 120-strong community choir will have you foot-tapping and singing along as they inspire, energise and entertain in glorious four-part harmony with songs that you know and love. *Admission Free.*

### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm Edinburgh Bach Ensemble**

*Bach and Vivaldi* Returning to Canongate Kirk for their 10<sup>th</sup> Edinburgh Fringe, the ensemble and guests perform CPE Bach Cello Concerto in C Minor, Vivaldi Bassoon Concerto in C Minor, two four-violin concertos from Vivaldi L'Estro Armonico, concluding with the ever-popular JS Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 1.15pm      Edinburgh Sacred Arts Festival**

*Composing Sacred Music – A New Generation* Showcasing the work of four of Edinburgh's newest young composers – Alexander McNamee, Carlo Massimo, Viktor Seifert and Lucy Whitehead, performed by a specially recruited professional choir, under the direction of Calum Robertson, director of Edinburgh University Singers.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm      Edinburgh Bach Ensemble**

*Bach Handel Mozart* John Cameron (piano) performs Mozart Piano Concerto No. 22 in Eb K.482 in the chamber version with strings. Soprano Electra Lochhead is joined by Aaron Akugbo (trumpet) for the joyful Bach Solo Cantata, Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen, BWV 51. Handel Concerto Grosso Op. 6 No. 7 in Bb completes the programme.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 12 noon      David Hamilton**

*Bach: Intimations of Genius* David Hamilton presents a concert of some of Bach's earliest organ compositions. The combination of organ (Frobenius opus 1000) and acoustic make Canongate Kirk a perfect venue in Edinburgh for listening to Bach's organ music.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 10pm      St Andrew Camerata**

*Fauré's Requiem* Atmospheric, late-night performances of Gabriel Fauré's much-loved Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine, with orchestra. Directed by Robert Dick, these very popular shows are the perfect way to wind down from a day at the festival: book early!

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2pm      Wellingborough Community Gospel Choir**

*Get up and Gospel!* Get ready for an inspirational musical experience you'll never forget! Timeless classics you know and love, inspirational anthems, and exhilarating gospel arrangements guaranteed to revitalise your heart and soul. *Admission Free*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 8pm      Alastair Savage and Friends**

*Scots Fiddle Old and New* This year, celebrating his 50th birthday, one of Scotland's leading fiddle exponents presents an extra-special journey of classic folk music accompanied by his closest collaborators from the past two decades. A festival highlight not to be missed!

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 12 noon      City of Derby Girls Choir**

*Travel with Song* ChorAlchemy, comprised of Voices of Derby and Derby City Singers, take you on a choral journey through time and space with a programme including early polyphony, sacred, art song, folk, madrigals and much more. *Admission Free.*

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 9pm      Calton Consort**

*Sublime to Ridiculous* Calton Consort chamber choir return to the Fringe with a concert of nonsense and beauty. Featuring music by Ola Gjeilo, Thea Musgrave, Eric Whitacre, Jaakko Mäntyjärvi and others. Directed by Rory Wilson.

All tickets available at <https://www.edfringe.com/> or on the door