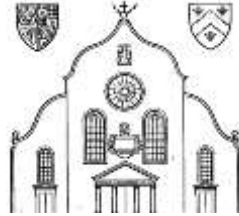


**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Newsletter July 2024



MINISTER'S LETTER

Monday 1st July 2024 sees the adoption of the Basis of Parish Grouping as previously agreed by our Kirk Session and congregation and finally by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian at its meeting on 18th June. This is the formalisation of the closer collaboration with our friends and neighbours at St Giles' Cathedral towards which the Presbytery has lately been encouraging us, and which began with our first united evening service on Advent Sunday 2022. These monthly services continue to attract a reasonable congregation drawn from both churches and beyond. And will continue to provide a focus for our closer collaboration on the Royal Mile. In addition, the Basis of Parish Grouping encourages us to establish other areas of co-operation, building very much on the historic roles and responsibilities of our respective churches. These will include mission and outreach to locals, visitors and tourists, those who attend concerts and special events, and the many major institutions and organisations based on and around the Royal Mile. To help bring our congregations closer, a joint study group will take place twice a year and occasional joint fundraising activities for local charities will be undertaken. There's talk at the Cathedral of a Young People's Group gathering from time to time – these days in the Church that means under forties (!) – and a warm invitation is extended to interested and eligible parties in our congregation, who should get in touch with our office prior to a lunchtime gathering proposed for early August.

Canongate Kirk has always styled itself the Kirk of Holyroodhouse and of Edinburgh Castle. Its obvious proximity to the Palace explains the former connection, but reasons for the latter are lost somewhere in the mists of time. They may have to do with an ancient connection between monastic foundations situated both at the top and at the foot of the Royal Mile as early as the twelfth century. Today this means that both the eastern and western edge of St Giles' parish boundaries march on those of Canongate Kirk. So we've always been close geographically, and the Parish Grouping just brings us a bit closer together in other ways. But we'll be continuing to do our own thing too. We've revived a Pastoral Care Group, for instance, with a number of willing volunteers happy to call (in person or on the phone) on those members and friends of our congregation who might appreciate such a connection. Again please let the office know if you, or someone you know, might appreciate a call.

With all good wishes and every blessing

Neil Gardner

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

1st June Rose Helen Peggy Ogilvy-Wedderburn *at Silvie, Perthshire*

23rd June Tripp Bunting Keesler & Edward Chambers Keesler

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

WEDDING

8th June Louisa MacDonald & Thomas Fortescue *at Biggar Kirk*

15th June Annie Ominiabohs & Simon McCrory

22nd June Felicia Fastberg & Claudio Menotti

29th June Ariane Moshiri & Jonathan Gemmell

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

UNITED EVENING SERVICE

Our next monthly united evening service in conjunction with St Giles’ takes place at 7pm on Sunday 28th July. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome.

OPEN KIRK

Now that the busy Summer season is upon us we are delighted to welcome back Madalaine Wallace as a student intern to help welcome visitors to the church from Monday to Friday. We still require members of the congregation to help out on Saturdays when there are no weddings. Please sign up on the board in the foyer if you can spare a Saturday morning or afternoon.

KIRKYARD TOURS

The next of these fascinating monthly tours by guide and historian Eric Drake will be on Sunday 7th July exploring Canongate and the Arts (writers, painters, musicians and more.) Tours start at the front of the Kirk at 11.30am and last an hour. Free of charge but donations to Canongate Kirk welcome. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3V6yUtP>

CRAFT CLUB

The Craft club continues to meet monthly in the Harry Younger Hall on the second Wednesday of each month from 6.30pm – 8pm with the next meeting on Wednesday 10th July. The group is open to crafters and non-crafters, skilled and non-skilled alike – you can be sure of a friendly welcome.

COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the magnificent total of £1478.40 at our recent event in aid of Alzheimer’s UK. What a great result!

CONTACTLESS MACHINE

Our previous machine in the foyer has been replaced by a new ‘Payaz’ contactless machine which has allowed us to set up different donation values, or let the donor choose the amount they wish to give. Where applicable we will also be able to claim Gift Aid on donations. The first time you use the new machine you will be asked if you wish Gift Aid to be applied. If yes, just follow the steps on the screen. Once you have registered for Gift Aid, so long as you use the same card, you will not be asked again.

SUNDAY OFFERINGS

We are grateful to everyone who supports the church financially in the variety of ways, including contactless, that are now available. Many members of the congregation still prefer to put something in the offering bags when they are passed around during the service. If you give by other means, please feel free to pass the bag on to those sitting alongside you so that everyone has an opportunity to give their offering.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

There are new rotas in place for volunteers to sign up to help with Sunday duties – if you'd like to be part of the welcoming face of Canongate Kirk, giving out hymn books and orders of service and taking up the collection etc, please sign up against any particular Sunday. There's a rota for those who would like to read lessons too. Not to mention the rotas to help with tea and coffee after the service, to arrange flowers in advance, and to support Open Kirk's remit of welcoming visitors and tourists at weekends. There are lots of opportunities to work with and get to know other members of the family of our congregation – don't be shy!

ASIA SCOTLAND INSTITUTE EVENT

Buddhism in Challenging Times, the recent special event due to be hosted by Asia Scotland Institute has been postponed until the Autumn. However, you can watch an interview with the Venerable Morawaka Dhammarakkhitha conducted by Roddy Gow with insights into the significance of the Buddhist faith today <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQKEWSedK3g>

BBC RADIO 4 PRAYER FOR THE DAY

A reminder that the Minister's latest series concluded on Friday 28th June. As in previous years it will be available on BBC Sounds for a month after each broadcast.

JULY CONCERTS

There will be a lunchtime concert by the Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra here at Canongate Kirk on Friday 5th July at 1pm featuring music by Mendelssohn, Fuchs and Ireland. Admission free. And on Saturday 27th July at 5pm, the Scottish International Tuba Festival will hold a final show-case concert. Tickets £8/5 www.scottishtubafestival.com

MUSEUM OF EDINBURGH EXHIBITION

Celebrating 200 years of the world's first municipal Fire Brigade founded right here in Edinburgh, '*Rising from the Ashes – 200 Years of the Scottish Fire Service*' is a special exhibition created in partnership with the Museum of Scottish Fire Heritage. Admission is free and visitors will journey through two centuries of fire-fighting legacy. There is also a packed programme of lectures and talks, family events and hands-on workshops. In addition, on Saturday 6th July and Saturday 31st August from 2 – 3pm, a fire engine will be parked just outside Canongate Kirk and you can meet the operational crew face-to-face. A fantastic FREE family day out! Find out more at <https://bit.ly/3VFE13q>

KING'S GALLERY EXHIBITION

'Style and Society – Dressing the Georgians' is the new exhibition at the re-named King's Gallery at Holyroodhouse, exploring Georgian fashion with examples of fine art, luxurious textiles, jewellery and other accessories - from the practical dress of laundry maids to the glittering gowns worn at court. Open every day except Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9am – 4.30pm until 22nd September. Ticket prices and more information on the King's Gallery website at <https://bit.ly/3TzisQM>

TRUSSELL TRUST

We continue to collect donations for Edinburgh foodbanks supported by Trussell Trust. Non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries can be brought any Sunday and left in the basket in the foyer.

Minister: The Revd Neil Gardner nng22@btinternet.com 0131 556 3515

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

Office Opening Hours: Mon, Wed 9am – 1pm, Thursday 9am – 12 noon, Fri 8am – 12 noon.

www.canongatekirk.org.uk



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