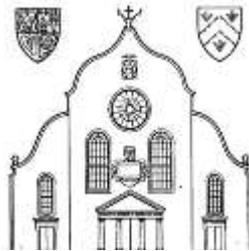


**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**
www.canongatekirk.org.uk
Newsletter July 2020



MINISTER'S LETTER



Don't panic, it shouldn't be quite this complicated come December! But for the moment it's difficult to know exactly how things are going to go in terms of reopening the churches in general – and Canongate Kirk in particular – for a service of public worship. Current indications are that this will be allowed at some point during phase 3 of the easing of restrictions, but not before 23rd July. We await further announcements and instructions and will notify the congregation as best we can when we have an actual starting date. In the meantime we are making the necessary preparations to comply with various risk assessments and health and safety requirements - we need to make sure we have a suitable seating plan to allow for safe distancing (at 2m apart we could seat a maximum of 57 individuals but it's likely that a lower maximum number will be imposed at least to start with), adequate supplies of hand sanitiser and floor signage in place and a rigorous cleaning schedule before services.

Initially the Kirk Session has approved that there will be just one short service at 10am, which will be filmed and uploaded to the website www.canongatekirk.org.uk immediately afterwards. This is partly to give members of the congregation a chance to see how it looks from afar, and partly to discourage everyone from turning up all at once! In the meantime a similar sort of service will be pre-recorded in the church and made available on the website every Sunday morning – this will begin on Sunday 5th July, without a congregation present, but with support from our new organist, Simon Leach, who we are glad to welcome to Canongate Kirk at last! I've avoided recording much in the Kirk until now – the acoustics make it sound depressingly empty and echoey, though I think I might finally have found a way round that. Do log on if you can, and let me know what you think. You might like to think of it all as a 21st century illustration of 1 Corinthians 13:12 *“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face...”*

PARISH REGISTER

Unfortunately two weddings due to be held in June had to be postponed due to the pandemic, but we look forward to rescheduled celebrations in due course. One small outdoor wedding was held on the Kirk doorstep in line with the current restrictions and we offer our warmest congratulations to Alexis and Duncan! We also extend our sympathy to the families of those whose funerals have been held in line with the restrictions in recent weeks.

Wedding

30th June

Alexis Moyer & Duncan Anderson

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

Funerals

3rd June

Derek Robertson

Forrester Park Garden

6th June

John Crocker

Prestonhall

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

CRISIS COVER

Please remember to let the office know if you – or someone you know – could do with some help getting food or medicines, or would just appreciate a phone call to chat with somebody different?!

ONLINE TEA, COFFEE AND GOOD THINGS TO EAT

Some of our members have been meeting via Zoom, the online video platform, on a Sunday afternoon at 2pm. We're grateful to Elise Ramsay for setting up this welcome opportunity to catch up. If you would to join in, please let the office know – on canongatekirk@btinternet.com – and Elise will send you a link to the gathering, along with any other details you might require. It's very straightforward and it would be nice to see you! The only thing is, you have to provide your own tea, coffee and good things to eat....

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible studies usually take a break during the summer but due to the unusual nature of this year's summer, with partial lockdown still in place, there is still a need for us to continue. Therefore, we will start with a new series of six studies next week with the theme "Practical Paul", focusing on the practical second halves of St Paul's letters. The short introduction to the study series, as well as the first study will shortly be available on our website and will be sent

via email to our regular participants. If you'd like to be added to the list, or find out more details, please get in touch with Rev Breda Ludik on ludik.breda@gmail.com

OFFERINGS

Some members have been asking for Canongate Kirk's bank details so that they can arrange electronic transfers to continue to support the Church's work during the current crisis. If you'd like those details please e-mail canongatekirk@btinternet.com and we'll pass them on. Meanwhile if you usually give via weekly envelopes, please save them up at home and we'll get them eventually!

LIFE AND WORK

Lockdown Weekly is a free weekly update which is a useful resource to help people keep in touch with events in the Church of Scotland while churches are shut and many of us are in isolation. Free every Friday to download from the Life and Work website at <https://www.lifeandwork.org/> Life and Work magazine will continue to be published as normal and distributed to readers who have a subscription. If you need to contact the team please email editorial enquiries to magazine@lifeandwork.org or all other enquiries to admin@lifeandwork.org.

DONATIONS FOR FRESHSTART

Freshstart, the charity which helps formerly homeless people get established in their new home, will re-open on Thursday 2nd July. Currently, Canongate Kirk cannot collect donations for Freshstart but if you are able, they can be taken to their warehouse at 22-24 Ferry Road Drive, Edinburgh EH4 4BR on a Tuesday and Thursday between 9am and 3pm. They will only be accepting HARD goods (no soft furnishings) that can be easily cleaned such as small electrical items, pots/pans, crockery, unopened & sealed toiletries and cleaning items. You can find out more at <https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/>

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK

Magician Dan Bastianelli, aka Magic Dan, has been a regular at our Summer and Christmas fayres for a number of years, entertaining adults and children alike with his astounding magic tricks. To occupy himself during lockdown, Dan has written a book called *Mission Magician* - a fun adventure story about budding magician Ollie and his pet rabbit, Chalky, who travel overseas in a quest to find real magic. Hidden in the story are some magicians' secrets so readers can learn to perform at least 6 magic tricks by the end of the book. Although it's aimed at children, it's had rave reviews from adults too! You can order it from Amazon here <https://amzn.to/2YOmb1Z>

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Assistant Minister	The Revd Breda Ludik	ludik.breda@gmail.com	07469677580
Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	canongatekirk@btinternet.com	

The office is currently closed but Imogen continues to work from home: Mon, Wed 9am – 1pm, Fri 8am – 12 noon

Website: www.canongatekirk.org.uk  @CanongateKirk  @canongate.kirk

Scottish Charity SC 015251