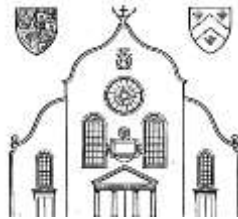


**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Newsletter July 2025



MINISTER'S LETTER

Who would you like to have met, but never had the chance? There are several I can think of: Ronnie Selby Wright for one, and perhaps less obviously Bernard Fergusson. Also known as Lord Ballantrae, he was at various times at the top of several trees I was once at the foot of – Chancellor of the University of St Andrews, Honorary Colonel of The Black Watch and Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Alas he died in 1980, 15 years before Dr Wright in 1995. They knew each other well but I will always regret never having met either of them.

Another person I admired greatly died just the other day, Alfred Brendel the world-famous pianist. And in this case I can honestly say I did meet him! I first encountered him as a student in Vienna, when I attended one of his solo recitals in the golden hall of the Musikverein, where the New Year's Day concert is held every year. He played excerpts from Liszt's "Years of Pilgrimage" suites and I've never forgotten it, almost forty years later. But I didn't actually meet him until he came to Edinburgh on his farewell tour during the Festival of 2008. It would have been enough simply to have attended the historic concert, but I was privileged to be invited for dinner afterwards at the Carlton Terrace home of the friends with whom Brendel was staying. I was completely star-struck! I remember nervously asking him how he had found the Usher Hall piano. He replied with a twinkle in his eye that as a matter of fact he had brought his own piano to Edinburgh. I discovered later that he had several enormous concert grands at his disposal, one of which always went ahead of him to the next venue. Something of a concert grand himself, he was utterly charming, modest and unassuming without any of the flamboyance sometimes associated with such stars. When I heard of his death at the age of 94 on 17th June, I couldn't help recalling that extraordinary evening.

Every one of us can think of those who have influenced and inspired us through our own "years of pilgrimage" whether we met them or not. But, as the hymn-writer puts it, while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on. For this, and for them, thanks be to God.

Neil Gardner

PARISH REGISTER

WEDDINGS

21st June

Lydia Strange & Eamon Lloyd

28th June

Carla Johnstone & Timothy Aspinall

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

FUNERALS & MEMORIAL SERVICES

4th June

Christine Dowie

Strachan House Care Home

13th June

Lord (Donald) Ross

Cramond Residence

30th June

Mairi Grossart

Chamberlain Nursing Home

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

PARISH GROUPING

United Evening Services

Our next monthly united evening service in conjunction with St Giles' takes place on Sunday 30th June at 7pm. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. Rev Dr Sam Nwokoro will give an address as his time on the Ministerial Team of St Giles' comes to an end and he prepares to head home to Nigeria. We have enjoyed Sam's involvement over the last couple of years and wish him every success in the future.

Then at our monthly evening service on 27th July we will be joined by Streatham Choral – a large choir of 65 singers on a visit to Scotland. The service will have a bigger musical dimension than usual and promises to be a memorable event. All welcome.

Edinburgh 900 Exhibition

Celebrating the 900th anniversaries of both St Giles' Cathedral and Edinburgh, 'Edinburgh's First Burghers' at St Giles' brings together new research of medieval burials first excavated in 1981 to reveal the lives and hidden faces of Edinburgh's medieval citizens. The exhibition also features new lighting designs to project the facial reconstructions of five early Edinburghers, along with a short film featuring interviews with the project team and Cathedral staff, discussing the results and importance of the work to the heritage of the City and the Cathedral. Until 30th November. Opening hours: Mon - Fri : 10am - 6pm; Sat : 9am - 5pm; Sun : 1pm - 5pm. Admission is free.

OPEN KIRK

There is a rota in the foyer for volunteers to sign up for Open Kirk on Saturdays and Sundays between 11am and 1.30pm or 1.30pm and 4pm. Please help if you can. We look forward to welcoming Roselle Brown on a student internship to help with Open Kirk Mondays to Fridays in July and August.

CRAFT CLUB NEWS

The next gathering will be on Monday 14th July from 6.30pm – 8.00pm in the Harry Younger Hall. Everyone is welcome, experienced crafters and non-crafters alike. One of the Craft Club's current projects is to knit baby blankets for babies baptised at Canongate Kirk. If anyone is interested in knitting a baptism blanket at home, please get in touch with the Craft Club organisers via the church office - all supplies will be provided.

PALACE EXHIBITION

Royal Portraits – A Century of Photography at the King's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse, charts the evolution of royal portrait photography from the 1920s to the present day, bringing together photographic prints, proofs and documents from the Royal Collection and the Royal Archives, including works from Cecil Beaton and Dorothy Wilding to Annie Leibovitz and Rankin. Open daily until 7th September <https://bit.ly/4gmsNZU>

LIFE AND WORK MAGAZINE

After it was announced at the General Assembly that the monthly magazine of the Church of Scotland is to cease publication, the Life and Work team are planning their final issue and looking for any thoughts or reflections you may have on what the magazine has meant to you, whether that's memories of reading or helping deliver it as a child, or maybe a favourite writer or a particular article that's stayed with you. If you have anything at all you would like to share in the on-line issue, please email them at magazine@lifeandwork.org

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 now 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!

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.

STAMPS

Don't forget that we have had an ongoing collection for used stamps for many years. This year's Stamp Appeal proceeds go towards the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian project Firmly Planted, which aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment and protect livelihoods for households and communities in Malawi.

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

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

Office Hours: Mon + Wed + Fri 9am – 1pm, Thurs 9am – 12 noon. Closed Tuesdays

<https://www.canongatekirk.org.uk/>



canongatekirk



@canongate.kirk

Scottish Charity SC 015251

EDINBURGH FRINGE 2025 EVENTS AT CANONGATE KIRK (VENUE 60)

Saturday 9th August – 5pm **FREE**

DALES COMMUNITY POP CHOIR

A selection of pop favourites and modern show tunes in three and four-part harmony.

Sunday 10th August – 7pm **£12/£10**

TUTTI ORCHESTRA

An evening of classics from the silver screen.

Monday 11th August – 1.15pm **£12**

YOUNG COMPOSERS RECITAL (EDINBURGH SACRED ARTS FESTIVAL)

Performance of compositions by the winners of the 2025 Sacred Music young composers' competition, with the Sacred Arts Festival Singers.

Monday 11th August – 7.30pm **£15/£12**

EDINBURGH BACH ENSEMBLE

Works by Handel, Marcello and Vivaldi, with Bach sung by the exciting young soprano Angela Hicks.

Wednesday 13th August – 1.15pm **£12**

YOUNG RELIGIOUS POETS COMPETITION (EDINBURGH SACRED ARTS FESTIVAL)

The winners will read their poems alongside poets Robert Crawford and Christine De Luca.

Wednesday 13th August – 7.30pm **£15**

THE ROBIN CHAPEL CHOIR

Edinburgh's Robin Chapel Choir and Hannover's Vox Spiritus perform a stunning British and German programme.

Thursday 14th August – 7.30pm **£16**

THE HOWE STREET ENSEMBLE (EDINBURGH SACRED ARTS FESTIVAL)

Exquisite choral works by Vivaldi. Directed by Les Shankland

Friday 15th August – 7.30pm **£15/£12**

EDINBURGH BACH ENSEMBLE

Concertos by Bach, Corelli and Vivaldi. Exciting young soprano Angela Hicks will sing Rameau and Vivaldi.

Saturday 16th August – 12 noon **£10**

ORGAN RECITAL BY DAVID HAMILTON

In the superb acoustic of Canongate, David Hamilton performs a wide range of Bach's organ music.

Saturday 16th August – 5pm **FREE**

HITHERTONES

A 60-minute eclectic musical journey featuring rich harmonies and soulful melodies.

Sunday 17th August – 6pm **£13/£11**

ALASTAIR SAVAGE AND FRIENDS

Fringe favourite Alastair performs Scots fiddle music old and new alongside a stellar cast of Scotland's finest folk musicians.

Tuesday 19th August – 8.30pm **£15/£12**

CALTON CONSORT

Journey through the seasons, nature and devotion in an hour of mesmerising choral music.

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**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm & Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at 6pm** **£10**

**BACH'S ORGAN TRIO SONATAS**

Former Canongate Kirk organist David Goodenough offers perfect tea-time music over two concerts. Please come to support David if you can!

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August – 3pm** **FREE**

**JAM THEATRE COMPANY – THAT 70'S CHOIR**

A new concert of 70s hits that will get you grooving.

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Tickets and information for all shows available at the Fringe Box Office <https://www.edfringe.com/tickets>

