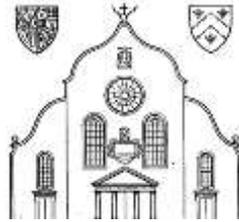


**CANONGATE KIRK**  
**THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE**  
**& EDINBURGH CASTLE**  
[www.canongatekirk.org.uk](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk)

**Newsletter June 2022**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

“The Queen would like to see Neil for a chat this afternoon, but only if he has time.” That was the unexpected message conveyed from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to Canongate Kirk office during Royal Week 2021. And yes, obviously, I did have time! During this month’s celebrations of The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee both locally and nationally, much will be made, rightly, of Her Majesty’s sense of duty and devoted service throughout the long years of her reign. But I can’t help reflecting for a moment on the genuinely unassuming attitude with which The Queen has tackled so much that has been asked of her. The gentle manner in which my royal summons was issued - “but only if he has time” - is rather typical of that quietly unassuming approach. “You’d better answer that,” Her Majesty once famously told a flustered woman in a line-up whose mobile phone had started to ring at just the wrong moment, “it might be someone important.” And my personal favourite came when The Queen once referred to somebody (was it Roy Jenkins?) as “far too grand for the likes of me!”

I can’t help thinking there is something rather Scottish about Her Majesty’s capacity not to take herself too seriously – even as she continues steadfastly to fulfil the most serious of roles – that can be traced not just to her Scottish ancestry but to the many happy times she has spent in Scotland throughout the course of her life. It can safely be said that she has time for Scotland and its people, and relishes the casual chats just as much as the more formal encounters. And it is very much to be hoped that The Queen will be able to return to the Palace of Holyroodhouse for Royal Week 2022 at the end of the month.

In the meantime do please come and join us for our celebratory service in Canongate Kirk – the Kirk of Holyroodhouse – on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am. But only if you have time.

*Neil Gardner*

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

1<sup>st</sup> May Edith May Simpson  
Hugh Alexander Simpson  
2<sup>nd</sup> May Beth Hawker  
22<sup>nd</sup> May Eliza Jane Comrie Macnair  
Alfred John Lochlan Daniels  
29<sup>th</sup> May Poppy Harriet Johnston  
Georgina Alba Lyall Martin

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...”*

### Wedding

21<sup>st</sup> May Antonia Munro & Edward Strang Steel

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

### Funeral

24<sup>th</sup> May John Fleming Cumberland Street SW Lane

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

## PLATINUM JUBILEE SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Canongate Kirk’s celebration of Her Majesty The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee will take place at our regular morning service at 10.30am on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, when the Church also celebrates Pentecost. Our guest preacher will be the former Minister of Canongate Kirk, The Revd Charles Robertson. Members of staff at the Palace of Holyroodhouse have been invited, along with their families, as have members of the High Constables and Guard of Honour of Holyroodhouse, and the service will be followed by a glass of something fizzy in the courtyard, weather permitting. Do come along and help celebrate this truly unique milestone. If you’d like to lend a hand in advance or on the day, please have a word with the Minister or Session Clerk. All welcome.

## BBC SONGS OF PRAISE

We have been asked to host a recording session for BBC Songs of Praise on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm. The recording will take until 9.30pm and include a number of hymns that will feature in different editions of the next series. Details are being circulated around all the churches in Edinburgh but it would be good to have our own congregation well represented. Please come and support if you can and tell your friends! To book your FREE tickets please contact [SOPCongregations@avantimedia.tv](mailto:SOPCongregations@avantimedia.tv) or call 07734 030 888 as soon as you can.

## 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 **only** 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. 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.

## CONCERTS IN JUNE

|                           |   |         |
|---------------------------|---|---------|
| Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>   | Linton Singers at 7pm <i>Dulcis Jesu</i> (in support of Mary's Meals) £15 |         |
| Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> | Calton Consort at 7.30pm <i>Songs of the Baltic Sea</i>                   | £12/£10 |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>  | University of Manchester Chamber Choirs at 1pm                            | FREE    |
| Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>      | University of Nottingham Music Society at 4pm                             | FREE    |

## 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 addition is a book by Heidi Kuhn, who recently gave a talk on her charity work turning minefields into vineyards in Afghanistan.

## 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 EXHIBITIONS

*Seven Portraits – Surviving the Holocaust* Tickets and information: <https://bit.ly/3KdIpiC> A last chance to see these poignant portraits - until June 6<sup>th</sup> 2022. *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.

## MUSEUM OF EDINBURGH EXHIBITION

*Think Local, Act Global: Engaging with the Climate Crisis* is a free exhibition at the Museum of Edinburgh seeking to encourage discussion about climate change. The exhibition explores this theme through museum collections together with artworks from pupils at Edinburgh primary schools including Royal Mile Primary School. Find out more at: <https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/think-local-act-global> - until 19<sup>th</sup> June.

## TWELVE CLOSES PROJECT

In March, Edinburgh World Heritage completed the first batch of its Twelve Closes project, working with the City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Napier University. This project aims to renew and reinterpret some of Edinburgh's most historic closes, creating safer and more attractive spaces for residents, businesses and tourists. The first batch has seen the completion of new lighting, art installations and interpretation panels in Carrubber's Close, Chessel's Court and Stevenlaw's Close as well new lighting for the community-led interpretive art project in Pirrie's Close.

Follow this link to find out more: <https://ewh.org.uk/residents-and-artists-breathe-new-life-into-edinburghs-historic-closes/>

## EDINBURGH OLD TOWN DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Otherwise known as The Crannie, EOTDT has a host of community activities taking place at their HQ at 9 Cranston Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BE. One of these includes the relaunch of their weekly free lunch on Wednesdays at 1.30pm. For more information about their programme of activities and news about what's on in the Old Town visit [thecrannie@eotdt.org](mailto:thecrannie@eotdt.org) or follow them on Facebook [www.facebook.com/TheCrannie](http://www.facebook.com/TheCrannie)

## 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.

|                    |                        |  |               |
|--------------------|------------------------|--|---------------|
| Minister           | The Revd Neil Gardner  | <a href="mailto:nng22@btinternet.com">nng22@btinternet.com</a>                                 | 0131 556 3515 |
| Assistant Minister | Douglas Reid           | <a href="mailto:Douglas.Reid@churchofscotland.org.uk">Douglas.Reid@churchofscotland.org.uk</a> | 07960251971   |
| Kirk Secretary     | Imogen Gibson (office) | <a href="mailto:canongatekirk@btinternet.com">canongatekirk@btinternet.com</a>                 | 0131 556 3515 |

*Usual Office Opening Hours: Mon, Wed 9am – 2pm, Fri 8am – 1pm.*

Website: [www.canongatekirk.org.uk](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk)  @CanongateKirk  @canongate.kirk  
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