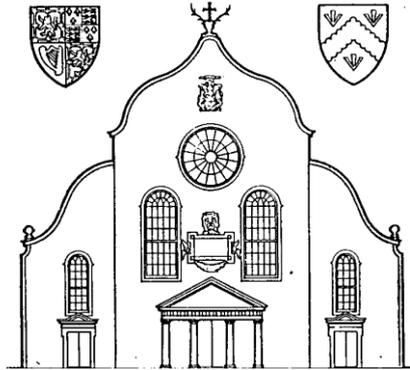


CANONGATE KIRK THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE & EDINBURGH CASTLE

Newsletter
June 2019



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

2 nd June	10:	Family Service
<i>Ascension Sunday</i>	11.15	Parish Worship, with Baptism
9 th	10:	Family Service, all age worship
<i>Pentecost</i>	11.15	Parish Worship, with Holy Communion
	4pm	Croft an Rìgh monthly service
16 th	10:	Family Service
<i>Trinity Sunday</i>	11.15	Parish Worship, with Baptism
23 rd	10:	Family Service
<i>Trinity 1</i>	11.15	Parish Worship, with Diakonia delegates
30 th	11.15	Parish Worship (no 10am service today)
<i>Trinity 2</i>		
7 th July	10:	Family Service
<i>Trinity 3</i>	11.15:	Parish Worship

Email: canongatekirk@btinternet.com

Website: www.canongatekirk.org.uk

 @CanongateKirk  @canongate.kirk

Scottish Charity SC 015251

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

26th May Angus Charles Cameron Macnair
“Then he took them in his arms and blessed them.”

Wedding

7th May Rachael Burgess & John Michael Davis
“Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide.”

Funeral

31st May Janet Buchanan Croft an Righ
“Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid”

MINISTER’S LETTER

I recently completed my seventh “tour of duty” as chaplain to the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Despite living so near, it’s a role that requires me - along with the rest of the support “suite” - to move into the Palace of Holyroodhouse for the week. Every night before going to bed, however late, I take a quiet walk round the circuit that begins with a sequence of elaborate state rooms designed for the days of King Charles II and ends in the old tower largely built by King James V and the upper chambers occupied by his daughter Mary, Queen of Scots, between 1561 and 1567. Every night I’m struck by a profound sense of the history and heritage right here on our doorstep, and I hope you will get a similar sense from the fascinating new information boards fixed to the walls of Canongate Kirk. Do come and have a look, you’re bound to discover something you didn’t know before! I know I did. And I’m very grateful to those who helped to put them together. This month marks both Ascension and Pentecost in the Church’s calendar. The former represents the point at which Jesus finally disappeared from sight, the latter reminds us that he did not leave his followers comfortless but reassured and reinvigorated by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And down through the centuries as Kings and Queens have passed through our ancient parish, it is the Holy Spirit that has kept alive in our church and in our hearts the presence and promise of the King of Kings.

OPEN KIRK

The recent installation of information boards and Kirkyard Guide Brochures at the vestibule and in the Kirk is evidence of the commitment we gave to Historic (Environment) Scotland as part of our successful grant application to improve services and information for visitors from all over the world to our Kirk. We intend now to refer to the vestibule as our “Visitors Centre” and are looking at ways to streamline entry and egress for visitors, donations (including “contactless”) and the relocation and content of the information sheets we provide in different languages. Last year donations from visitors totalled around £15,000 but this year the season so far has been stifled by the ongoing work around the scaffolding and also a reduced number of volunteers for a number of unavoidable reasons. We therefore

need and would welcome as many new volunteers as possible from within the congregation and Kirk community to help us to keep the Kirk open as often as possible over the summer months. Even if you are able only to provide occasional support, it would be welcomed. We will provide support to you for as long as you feel it necessary, perhaps you might also want to bring along a friend not associated with the Kirk? Anyone interested in volunteering should either put their names on the board in the Visitors Centre or speak with the Session Clerk or Lesley Wallace.

SOUP LUNCH

The next soup lunch will be held on Tuesday, 4th June, in the Harry Younger Hall at 12 noon. There is always a choice of two home-made soups, crusty bread and butter, tea, coffee and biscuits. Also included in the small charge of £2 is a game of bingo and a quiz. Come along and bring a friend! Don't forget to add the date of our Summer Fayre to your diaries – Saturday 27th July in the Kirk.

CONCERT

On Saturday 15th June at 7.30pm, Calton Consort perform *How can I keep from singing?* described as 'a shimmering, verdant array of (mostly) joyful summer songs from a hugely varied collection of composers from Dowland to Shearing.' Tickets £12/£10. All welcome.

DIAKONIA VISIT

Elsbeth McPheat writes 'Those of you with long enough memories will know that Canongate has had two Deaconesses serving - Miss Grant and Miss Gardener. Both formidable ladies! What you may not know is that I am a Deaconess (now referred to as Deacon) having gone to St Colm's Church of Scotland College to train in 1979, where I met another Deaconess, Moyra McCallum, who taught there, and who was a part of the Canongate family for many years. On Sunday 23rd June we will be joined at our 11.15 service by over 150 Deaconesses from all over Europe and Africa who are meeting in Queen Margaret University celebrating 25 years of Diakonia Africa Europe. Some Deaconesses and Deacons wear uniforms and our African Delegates may wear national dress so we can look forward to a colourful gathering when we share in worship.'

KIRK SESSION

The next Kirk Session meeting will be held on Monday 24th June at 6pm in the Harry Younger Hall, followed by refreshments next door at the Manse.

KIRK SPRING CLEAN

The annual spring clean in the Kirk will take place on Wednesday 26th June commencing at 6pm. As many volunteers as possible will be welcomed, particularly following the recent very dusty work that has taken place around the outside of the building. Names please to Anne Croft.

GIFFORD LUNCH

On Sunday 28th July, Rita and Sandy Buchan have again kindly offered to provide lunch for up to 30 members of the congregation at their home in Gifford. Tickets priced £10 each are available from Rita now on a “first come first served basis” with all proceeds going to Kirk funds. Those requiring transport should give their name to either Rita or to Dinah Croy. We are once again extremely grateful to Mrs and Mr Buchan for inviting us into their home and for allowing us to share the various culinary delights for which they are both very well known.

SUGGESTIONS BOX

Some years ago, following a consultation with members, we installed a Suggestions Box on the lectern in the King David Aisle just under the visitors’ comments book. Since its installation there has been only one suggestion! We really would appreciate suggestions, comments or even complaints about how we do things and how they might be improved.

QUEEN’S GALLERY, HOLYROODHOUSE

The next exhibition, *Russian, Royalty and the Romanovs*, tells the story of the familial, political, diplomatic and artistic associations between Britain and Russia and their royal families through portraits, sculpture, photographs and archival documents including miniature masterpieces by Fabergé. Opens 21st June.

DUTY ELDERS FOR JUNE

Anne Baker	Rie Stevenson	Mark Peel
Anne Croft	Martin Baker	Gavin Brydone
Kate Church	Etta Geekie	Dinah Croy
Alexis Moyer		

DUTY ELDERS FOR JULY

Donald Davidson	Rosemary Bowe	Stuart Ramsay
Christina Coltart	Alastair Bowe	Lesley Wallace
Mary Craig	Helen Aitken	Roddy Gow
Rita Buchan		

Minister	The Revd Neil Gardner nng22@btinternet.com	0131 556 3515
Assistant Minister	Katherine Taylor KTaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk	07748445998
Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	0131 556 3515
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am – 1pm, Friday 8am – 12 noon		