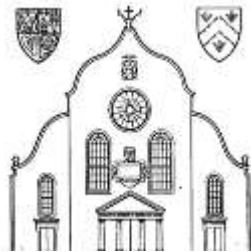


CANONGATE KIRK THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE & EDINBURGH CASTLE

www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Newsletter June 2021



MINISTER'S LETTER

After taking the sad news of the Duke of Edinburgh's death as my theme last month, it is most definitely good news to report this month that we were able to welcome his grandson Prince William to our service in Canongate Kirk on Sunday 23rd May, in his capacity as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Normally on General Assembly Sunday he would have been expected to attend a large-scale service in St Giles' Cathedral along with the newly-installed Moderator and hundreds of commissioners, but this year's restrictions meant that alternative plans had to be made. His Grace, as the Lord High Commissioner is known, walked up from the Palace of Holyroodhouse and just before he headed back down the road after the service I was able to present to him a couple of members of staff from the local branch of Tesco's in Holyrood Road. In preparation for the Lord High Commissioner's visit, his team had suggested he would be keen to meet anyone in the local area who had particularly supported the community over the course of the last year and the supermarket staff immediately sprang to mind. Apart from keeping the shelves stocked from the outset, they have faced the challenge of managing numbers and distancing in a relatively small store with narrow aisles, and confronted some seriously awkward customers from time to time. I was delighted to be able to have their stalwart service recognised in this rather unique and very personal way.

The challenge of managing numbers and distancing in our own rather larger space with broader aisles has recently become a little easier! For Sunday services, churches are now allowed to admit up to the number that can be safely accommodated at a 2m distance – this takes us up to 72 altogether, an improvement on the previous maximum of 50, which still applies to weddings and funerals. So if you have been staying at home so as not to take up someone else's place, do please consider coming back! We still need to know who's coming, to help manage the numbers and for track and trace purposes, and will continue to send out an e mail from the office every Monday morning. If you don't – or can't – receive that e mail and would like to come to church, please let us know. In any case as things open up gradually, I hope to see you soon, one way or another!

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

9th May Maddie Lilly Robertson
“Then he took them in his arms and blessed them.”

Wedding

29th May Flora Stewart & Matthew Waring
“Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide.”

Funerals

10th May Nicola Millar King Street
28th May John Drysdale Murrayfield Gardens
“Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

NEW PROBATIONER ASSISTANT

We look forward to a new Assistant Minister, Douglas Reid, joining the team at Canongate Kirk on 1st June 2021 for a 15-month probationary period. A lawyer in a previous life, Douglas has recently completed his studies at New College and lives in the Newington area. We very much look forward to welcoming him among us.

SUNDAY SERVICES AND PARKING

Edinburgh City Council has now introduced on-street parking charges from 12.30pm to 6.30pm every Sunday. With this in mind the Kirk Session has agreed that we shall continue to hold one service at 10.30am with the addition of a monthly evening service when the Council reintroduces its Open Streets programme, when it can be particularly difficult for some of our members to access the Kirk in the morning. Looking ahead we shall keep open the option of an additional earlier service, as previously, though it would have to start considerably earlier than the previous 10am Family Service slot. Comments – especially from those who used to attend the 10am service – would be welcome!

OFFERINGS

Our supplies of weekly freewill offering envelopes have been replenished - please let us know if you'd prefer not to receive envelopes but instead to arrange electronic transfers or other means of direct giving to continue to support the Church's work during the pandemic. If you'd like further details please e-mail canongatekirk@btinternet.com Donations can also be given via our website. Meanwhile we're grateful to everyone who continues to support Canongate Kirk any way at all in these challenging times. We are also now registered as a beneficiary of the Amazon Smile scheme, whereby 0.5% of the net cost of purchases you make on Amazon can be donated to us at no extra cost to yourself. To set the ball rolling you need to register at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and nominate Canongate Parish Church of Scotland, Edinburgh as your chosen charity. Please note you need to use our formal Scottish charity name rather than Canongate Kirk.

Minister	The Revd Neil Gardner	nng22@btinternet.com	0131 556 3515
Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	canongatekirk@btinternet.com	0131 556 3515

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

Website: www.canongatekirk.org.uk  @CanongateKirk  @canongate.kirk
Scottish Charity SC 015251