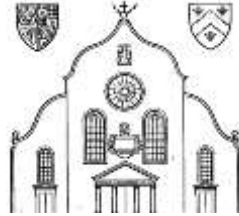


**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Newsletter June 2024



MINISTER'S LETTER

From Saturday 1st June onwards, Canongate Kirk will lie within the boundaries of the City of Edinburgh Council's new Low Emission Zone. This circles the city centre with a 1.2 square mile area and extends from Queen Street to Melville Drive and from Palmerston Place to Abbeyhill. And it means that if you are in the habit of driving to church, and continue to do so in a car that does not meet the required specification, you will be fined. If you are in any doubt about your car, please check by typing its registration number into the relevant website.

Living where I do, I've had no option but to change my old car, which was a pre-2016 diesel. I'd had it for ten years and would happily have kept it going for a few years more. Before going on a long drive in it, one of my great pleasures was selecting a handful of CDs to take with me, to have my own choice of music for the journey rather than whatever happened to be on the radio at the time. Alas those days are gone, my updated LEZ-compliant model has no CD player. They're a thing of the past apparently and the music now comes through the onboard computer and my phone. It's not quite the same!

Something similar could be said of the new model of ministry in the Church of Scotland, which is expected to be more collaborative than before, with fewer ministers across the board and congregations needing to work more closely together. With that in mind, both Canongate and St Giles' Kirk Sessions have approved the Presbytery's Basis for Parish Grouping, which encourages closer collaboration between our two congregations, and requires further corroboration at congregational meetings to be held after the morning services on Sunday 9th June. Please come along if you can that day, it would be good to have a reasonable number to vote their approval. We don't really have much option, and though it's not quite the same as before, it could be a lot worse! Just don't come in an old car...

Neil Gardner

PARISH REGISTER

WEDDING

25th May Mary-Elizabeth Conn & David Garrow

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

FUNERALS

13th May Arthur Brown Silverknowes

13th May Margaret Sturgeon Roseburn

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Presbytery’s proposed Bases of Reviewable Charge and of Parish Grouping have been approved by our Kirk Session. The next step will be for the congregation to vote their approval at a short meeting to be held after the service on Sunday 9th June. Please put it in your diaries, it would be helpful to have a good turn-out. Copies of the relevant documents are available at church or by email.

COFFEE MORNING

A reminder of our forthcoming coffee morning in aid of Alzheimer’s UK between 10am and 12 noon on Saturday 8th June in the Harry Younger Hall. Tickets at £5 each are now on sale from David Croft on Sunday mornings or during office hours. Anyone wishing to donate baking for sale on the day, contribute a gift for the raffle or lend a hand on the day should contact David or the office.

KIRKYARD TOURS

The first of our series of tours by local guide and historian Eric Drake last month was a great success. Tours continue on the first Sunday of each month up to and including September. Each tour explores a different theme with the next one, on Sunday 2nd June, looking at Canongate and the Enlightenment (with glimpses of both the dark and light side of Enlightenment Edinburgh) and Sunday 7th July concentrating on Canongate and the Arts (writers, painters, musicians and more.) Tours start at the front of the Kirk at 11.30am and last an hour. Free of charge but donations to Canongate Kirk welcome. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3V6yUtP>

OPEN KIRK

Our programme to welcome visitors and tourists to Canongate Kirk resumed at Easter and continues every weekend in the meantime. Please sign up on the board in the foyer in the church if you can help take a turn.

ASIA SCOTLAND INSTITUTE SPECIAL EVENT

Buddhism in Challenging Times is a special event hosted by Asia Scotland Institute on Tuesday 4th June at 6.30pm in the Harry Younger Hall. The guest speaker is the Venerable Morawaka Dhammarakkhitha who will share his insights on the significance of the Buddhist faith today. In a world where national Hinduism is growing in India and conflicts between Islam & Judaism persist in the Middle East, this is a timely opportunity to reflect on the teachings of one of the world’s other great religions. Tickets can be purchased via the ASI website <https://bit.ly/3WQH8HF> and funds raised will go to Canongate Kirk.

CRAFT CLUB

The Craft club continues to meet monthly in the Harry Younger Hall on the second Wednesday of each month from 6.30pm – 8pm with the next meeting on Wednesday 12th June. The group is open to crafters and non-crafters, skilled and non-skilled alike – you can be sure of a friendly welcome.

BBC RADIO 4 PRAYER FOR THE DAY

You might like to know that the Minister has been asked once again to lead this very short item at 5.43am every morning beginning on Saturday 22nd June and continuing from Monday 24th through to Friday 28th June. As in previous years it will be available on the BBC iPlayer for a month afterwards, so don't feel you have to listen "live". It's pre-recorded in one go, so he won't be up at the crack of dawn either....

SLOVENIAN CONSULATE CONCERT

On Thursday 27th June at 6pm, the Slovenian Consulate is celebrating 33 years of statehood of Slovenia and 20 years of Slovenian diplomatic representation in Scotland with a concert here at Canongate Kirk. Internationally acclaimed pianists Sasha Geržely-Donaldson and Nicholas Ashton, both of the Royal Conservatoire Scotland, will together perform compositions for two pianos by Mozart, Chaminade and Debussy. Members of the congregation are warmly invited and admission is free.

UNITED EVENING SERVICE

Our next monthly united evening service in conjunction with St Giles' takes place at 7pm on Sunday 30th June. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome.

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!

CONTACTLESS MACHINE

Our previous machine in the foyer has been replaced by a new 'Payaz' contactless machine which has allowed us to set up different donation values, or let the donor choose the amount they wish to give. Where applicable we will also be able to claim Gift Aid on donations. The first time you use the new machine you will be asked if you wish Gift Aid to be applied. If yes, just follow the steps on the screen. Once you have registered for Gift Aid, so long as you use the same card, you will not be asked again.

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.

DEFIBRILLATOR

You may have noticed a new defibrillator has been attached to the front railings of the Kirkyard. This has been supplied by the Order of St John, who will arrange CPR/defibrillator awareness training for interested parties in due course.

JUNE CONCERTS IN CANONGATE KIRK

Saturday 1 st June	7.30pm	Open Orchestra - <i>Mendelssohn</i>	FREE
Saturday 15 th June	7.30pm	Calton Consort - <i>Choral Pride</i>	£15/12
Thursday 20 th June	1pm	Cargilfield School Chapel Choir	FREE
Thursday 27 th June	6pm	Slovenian Consulate Anniversary Concert	FREE

KING'S GALLERY EXHIBITION

'Style and Society – Dressing the Georgians' is the new exhibition at the re-named King's Gallery at Holyroodhouse, exploring Georgian fashion with examples of fine art, luxurious textiles, jewellery and other accessories - from the practical dress of laundry maids to the glittering gowns worn at court. Open every day except Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9am – 4.30pm until 22nd September. Ticket prices and more information on the King's Gallery website at <https://bit.ly/3TzisQM>

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024 SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Life and Work has published a FREE four page General Assembly Special Supplement for 2024 summarising some of the key decisions, debates and speeches from the week that can be [viewed here](#) – full link <https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-2024-special-supplement> In addition to the supplement, General Assembly reports will feature in the July issue of Life and Work magazine. Anyone that is not a subscriber and interested in this particular issue can purchase a single print or digital copy [here](#). The July issue is published on 14th June 2024.

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.

Minister: The Revd Neil Gardner nng22@btinternet.com 0131 556 3515
Kirk Secretary: Imogen Gibson (office) canongatekirk@btinternet.com 0131 556 3515
Office Opening Hours: Mon, Wed 9am – 1pm, Thursday 9am – 12 noon, Fri 8am – 12 noon.

www.canongatekirk.org.uk



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