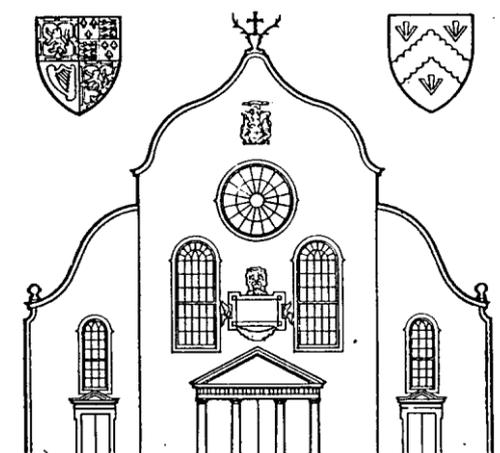


# CANONGATE KIRK THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE & EDINBURGH CASTLE

Newsletter  
March 2019



## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

<b>3rd</b>	10:	Family Service
Sunday before Lent	11.15	Parish Worship, with Baptism
<b>10th</b>	10:	Family Service
Lent 1	11.15	Parish Worship, with Centenary of The Royal Scots Club
<b>17th</b>	10:	Family Service
Lent 2	11.15	Parish Worship
<b>24th</b>	10:	Family Service
Lent 3	11.15	Parish Worship, with AGM
<b>31st (clocks forward)</b>	10:	Family Service
Mothering Sunday	11.15	Parish Worship, with Holy Communion
<b>7th April</b>	10:	Family Service, with Baptism
Lent 5	11.15	Parish Worship

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

10<sup>th</sup> February Florence Skye Kelly

17<sup>th</sup> February William John Anthony McCorkell

*“Then he took them in his arms and blessed them.”*

### Funerals

18<sup>th</sup> January Jimmy King Loanhead

27<sup>th</sup> February Bob Craik Eskbank

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

## ASSISTANT MINISTER’S LETTER

You may know about the weekly Time for Reflection at the Scottish Parliament on Tuesdays at 2pm. Speakers from different faith and non-faith groups have the chance to share a short message with the MSP’s present in Parliament. This year, in addition to the Church of Scotland, speakers have already contributed from the Scottish Episcopal, Pentecostal, and Roman Catholic churches. There has been a humanist speaker and February ended with a message from the Right Reverend Susan Brown, the Moderator of the General Assembly. She described MSP’s in these uncertain times, as taking a step into the unknown to face the unexpected and in doing this, she appealed to them to put the most vulnerable in our country to the forefront of their thinking. I am not sitting in the public gallery listening to all these different messages alone but am in the company of Christians from a group called Parliamentary Prayers Scotland. It is a non-party political group whose members come from different churches and who travel to pray together from different parts of Scotland. It exists to pray for the needs of MSP’s and the Parliament and honours God’s call to us to pray for those in authority. This group has been consistently and faithfully praying for the Parliament since 1999. If you visit the Parliament on a Tuesday afternoon, the members of PPS are easy to recognise – they are wearing red in various shades, shapes and forms. The reason for this is that when they sit together in rows in the public gallery, they are able to form a visible “thin red line” of Christians holding firmly to their faith and hope in Jesus and to their belief in the power of prayer. Canongate Kirk with its solid red doors is another very visible sign of Christian faith, standing as it does facing outwards to all the people who walk the Royal Mile. We are blessed to be in such a place of possibility. The future may be uncertain but as followers of Jesus we know that we step into it to face the unexpected, the exciting and sometimes the scary with Him at our side.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

This year’s annual meeting to note the accounts for the last financial year will take place immediately after a shortened 11-15am service on Sunday 24th March.

## **BUILDING REPAIR PROGRAMME**

The contract for delivering the repairs to the outside of the Kirk building has been awarded to G Brown Stonemasons Ltd. Work will commence on 8<sup>th</sup> April and take 16 weeks to complete. The contract figure for the works is £212,493 excl. VAT and includes unanticipated essential window repairs and an external lime wash of rough-casted walls to improve the external presentation of the building. By coincidence, the cost of the repairs matches almost exactly the amount raised by the congregation through the Appeal added to the Grant of £100,000 from Scottish Environmental Heritage. As part of our original submission and justification for a grant we emphasised our desire to improve the services we provide to the many thousands of visitors we have every year, and also to embrace the history of our Kirkyard as well as that of our Kirk. To this end the Kirk Session has agreed a further sum of around £10,000 to pay for the services that will help us to present our historic story through a variety of means around the vestibule and the back wall of the Kirk. Throughout the project we will look for opportunities to capitalise on the presence of the scaffolding and other trades' resources, to undertake necessary pieces of work at significantly less cost e.g. appointing a sign-writer to repaint the King James VII plaque high up above the front door of the Kirk.

## **FETTES COLLEGE CONCERT**

On March 2nd, Canongate Kirk will host the Music Scholars from Fettes College who will be giving an evening recital starting at 8pm for around an hour. All are welcome to come to support this; entry is free, and a retiring collection in aid of the Canongate Appeal will be taken at the end.

## **SOUP LUNCH**

The next soup lunch will be held on Shrove Tuesday, 5th March, 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. It is appreciated that not everyone wants to play bingo and if that is the case there will be no problem if you decide to leave after tea/coffee. Come along and bring a friend!

## **ECUMENICAL MORNING PRAYER**

Once again this year members of our congregation (and of St Patrick's, Cowgate) are invited to join friends from Old St Paul's at a weekly short service of Morning Prayer at 8am every Wednesday during Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, 6th March. All welcome.

## **LENT STUDY GROUP**

After our short series looking more closely at some of the disciples of Jesus, a Lent Study Group begins on Ash Wednesday, 6th March, at 11am in the meeting room of the Manse at 95 Canongate. We shall be using Bishop John Pritchard's book "The

Journey – with Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross”, copies of which are now available for purchase (£8) at church or at the office. Described as “absorbing, exuberant and effective”, the book offers daily readings and reflections and a weekly poem. As always our sessions are not academic tutorials and last under an hour. All welcome.

### **CONGREGATIONAL CONCERT**

As a final organised Kirk Appeal fundraising effort and to mark the 12-month stage of what has been a remarkable fundraising effort on the part of the whole congregation, some of the younger members of our congregation have agreed to organise a congregational concert to take place in the Kirk on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 commencing at 7pm. Tickets priced £10 (£5 for students and children free) are now available and can be purchased from Ally Collins, Josep Marti I Bouis or the Session Clerk. Already two members of the congregation have indicated their willingness to match any income from the concert, up to a maximum of £750 each. If we are able to sell just 75 tickets at £10 each, then this would guarantee additional funds to the Appeal of at least £2,250. Please consider supporting and attending the concert, at which refreshments will be provided and an opportunity for fun and fellowship is assured.

### **ROYAL SCOTS CLUB CENTENARY**

Our 11.15 service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March will incorporate a commemoration of the founding of The Royal Scots Club on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1919. The Club in Abercromby Place was built in memory of the 11,162 Royal Scots who had lost their lives in the course of the First World War. The service will be attended by a number of today’s Club members and supported by the Lowland Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

### **GIFFORD LUNCH**

Rita and Sandy Buchan have kindly offered to provide lunch at their home in Gifford on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April for up to 30 members of the congregation. Tickets priced £10 each are available from Rita now on a “first come first served basis” with all proceeds going to Kirk funds. It is hoped that a bus to Gifford can be provided to convey those without transport, leaving from the Kirk after the morning service. We are 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. Mr and Mrs Buchan will offer a similar lunch on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July for those members who do not obtain a ticket for the April occasion.

### **FELLOWSHIP GATHERING**

The first gathering will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the Harry Younger Hall and will be a literary celebration of Springtime. If you have a piece you would like to share with the group, please tell Julie Burns (see leaflet at the back of the church for contact details). Refreshments provided. All welcome.

## **PROVISION OF MEALS FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE**

Thanks are due to the members of the congregation who on one night last month provided and served hot meals to 75 homeless men and women at Diadem (formerly St Aiden's Church on Gorgie Road). They will again be providing the same service on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Diadem has been acquired on a permanent basis by Bethany Winter Night Shelter and provides a safe and warm night's sleep for up to 75 people each night who are facing the crisis of rough sleeping. The cost of providing the food is met from the donations made by the congregation at our annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

## **BOOKS ON THE PEWS**

Following last year's Summer Fayre, Mrs Julie Burns continued throughout the remaining Open Kirk season to display for sale to visitors many of the books that had been handed in by members of the congregation. The initiative was so popular that she has offered again to build up and organise a variety of "books on the pews" for sale throughout this year's Open Kirk season. To help in making this year's venture just as successful as the last, we would invite members to donate books, particularly paperback novels in good condition (adult and children) and books about Edinburgh which, unsurprisingly, were last year's "best sellers". Plans are beginning to take shape for this year's Summer's Fayre on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The Social Committee needs new members to help with the planning and preparation of this and other important events in the congregation's annual calendar. Please consider lending them your support, and have a word with the Minister if you would like to know more.

## **KIRK SESSION**

Members should note that the next meeting will take place in the Harry Younger Hall at 6pm on Monday 29th April 2019.

## **DUTY ELDERS FOR MARCH**

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

## **DUTY ELDERS FOR APRIL**

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

Minister	The Revd Neil Gardner <a href="mailto:nng22@btinternet.com">nng22@btinternet.com</a>	0131 556 3515
Assistant Minister	Katherine Taylor <a href="mailto:KTaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk">KTaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>	07748445998
Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	0131 556 3515

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am – 1pm, Friday 8am – 12 noon

Email: [canongatekirk@btinternet.com](mailto:canongatekirk@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.canongatekirk.org.uk](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk)

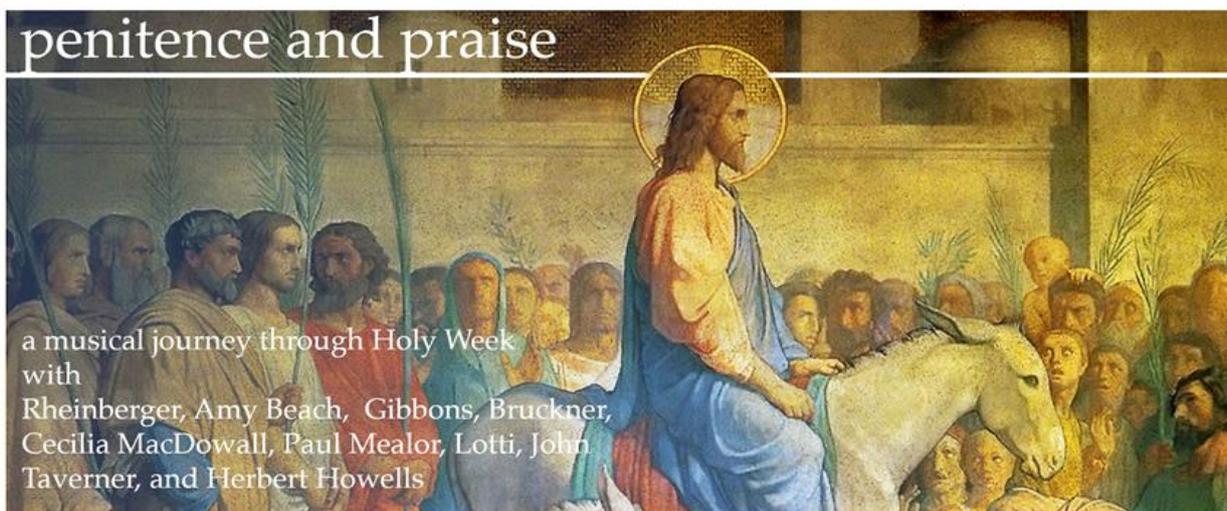
 @CanongateKirk  @canongate.kirk

## CONCERTS IN MARCH

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm:** Open Orchestra perform *Overture to Manfred*.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm:** Scottish Chamber Choir celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with a performance of *St John's Passion* by JS Bach, directed by Iain McLarty. The choir will be joined by Camerata Alba and soloists from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Tickets £15/£10.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm:** Calton Consort take a musical journey through Holy Week with *Penitence and Praise* featuring works by, among others, Bruckner, Herbert Howells and John Taverner. Conducted by Frikki Walker. Tickets £12/£10



## CALTON CONSORT

Conducted by Frikki Walker  
7.30 pm Saturday 30th March  
Canongate Kirk  
tickets: £12 (£10 concession)

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