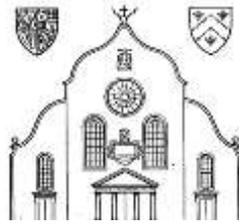


CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE
www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Newsletter March 2022



MINISTER'S LETTER

As the shocking news of death and destruction in Ukraine continues to intensify, it's worth bearing in mind that there are members of the extended family of our congregation who have family and friends living in Kyiv and are desperately worried about them. The sense of helplessness we all feel as we watch from afar is so much worse for those who have a direct connection, but there are at least some things we can do to help. A number of major charities – the Disasters Emergency Committee and Unicef among them – have launched appeals in support of refugees fleeing from Ukraine, and of their fellow country-men and women who have stayed behind. More locally here in Edinburgh the Ukrainian Catholic church in Dalmeny Street, and the Club in Royal Terrace, are providing natural hubs for practical support. And with the season of Lent now upon us we can all take up the habit of prayer with renewed determination, praying not only for those caught up in the fighting and the fear of invasion, but for their families and friends watching and worrying from afar. You might like to use the following prayer, produced by the Scottish Church Leaders Forum and shared by many Churches in Scotland:

*Living God, Creator and giver of life to all people:
We ask that you would hear our prayer for peace amongst the nations
And for ending of conflict in Ukraine.*

*Living God, who shall judge between the nations:
We ask that that you would lead the nations in the paths of peace
And that the dividing wall of hostility would be broken down.*

*Living God, who has inspired faith across the ages:
Grant peace in the midst of war
And bring harmony to the commonwealth of nations.*

*Living God, who gave his only Son that we might have life:
We ask that you would pour out your Holy Spirit
And inspire in us hope that peace will be renewed.*

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

20th February Krista Ellis

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

Wedding

5th February Isabel Douglas-Hamilton & Jolyon Coates

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

Memorial Service

22nd February Lucy Scillitoe Nassington, Northamptonshire

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

Our **Kirk Session** meeting on Monday 28th February was David Croft’s last as Session Clerk, a role which he has fulfilled with great dedication for the last twenty years. Huge thanks are due to David from all of us, not just in the Kirk Session and congregation but in the wider Canongate family, for all that he has accomplished in this essential role both front of house, as it were, and behind the scenes. He remains on the Kirk Session of course, and in fact has taken on the role of Fabric Convener in the meantime. So he is still very much at the heart of our congregational life but for the moment we simply offer him our heartfelt thanks. Stuart Ramsay has kindly agreed to take on the Clerkship and accordingly took the oath *de fideli* at the February meeting. We wish him well in this new role.

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** to note the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 will take place in church immediately after the morning service on Sunday 20th March. Copies of the accounts can be collected from church in the meantime and any questions should be submitted in advance. 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. Some envelopes are still available for collection in the foyer. Meanwhile we have a new means of facilitating donations to Canongate Kirk, using the QR code below. When scanned with your smart phone it will take you straight to our digital donations page.



Further to the recent publication of the **Presbytery Plan** for consultation, a meeting will be held shortly between representatives of Canongate Kirk and St Giles’ Cathedral – in our case the Minister will be accompanied by Colin Stewart and Louise Brodie – and further updates will be issued as to how initial conversations are going.

The Kirk Session has agreed that as we look ahead to a further easing of national restrictions on 21st March, we should be able to move gradually towards a local return to something a bit more “normal” in the coming weeks. There will come a point where we no longer need to keep a checklist of names and numbers for track and trace purposes, for instance, and the wearing of face coverings will presumably become optional. We plan to remove the “no access” signs from alternate pews in the nave, but will keep them in some parts of the side aisles, so that anyone who is anxious can still keep a little bit of distance around them and feel safe.

To mark **World Landmine Day**, a presentation on the work of Roots for Peace and the current situation in Afghanistan under Taliban rule will be given by Heidi Kuhn on Monday 4th April at 5.30pm in Canongate Kirk. Based in California, Heidi is the founder of Roots for Peace, a charity that lifts thousands of landmines to clear land that can be used for planting vines and growing other food. More details to follow, but we look forward to hosting this significant event, organised in conjunction with Roddy Gow’s Asia Scotland Institute.

APPEALS

The local charity for the homeless, Streetwork, would appreciate donations of warm gloves, socks, hats, and boxer shorts. These must be new and can be left in the basket in the kirk foyer. They have let us know that the following are also needed: tinned meat, tinned soup, spaghetti hoops, baked beans, biscuits and breakfast cereals. Many thanks to everyone who has already contributed. Crisis Scotland delivered a thank you note for the washbags donated by the congregation over Christmas: *‘to the wonderful members of the congregation of the Canongate Kirk, thank you so much for your kind donations. You helped us deliver 156 Christmas gift boxes, 141 wellbeing packs, gifts for 90 children and 317 hot meals! You provided connection, comfort and dignity to people experiencing homelessness this winter.’*

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, especially around Christmas time.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF LOCAL FESTIVALS

Hidden Door is a volunteer-run arts festival based in Edinburgh. Since 2014 they have held an annual multi arts festival in unusual or disused spaces across the city, celebrating the best new and emerging creative talent in Scotland today. This year the event will be in the former Royal High School building on Regent Road. 9th June – 18th June. For tickets and more information visit <https://hiddendoorarts.org/old-royal-high-school-revealed-as-2022-venue/>

The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Festival is back this year from 14th - 20th August and it's bigger and better than ever - celebrating music, painting, poetry and drama. Participating venues include Canongate Kirk, Old Saint Paul's, Sacred Heart Jesuit Church, St Vincent's Chapel in Stockbridge, St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, and Mansfield Traquair Centre, home to the stunning murals by Phoebe Traquair. Follow Edinburgh Sacred Arts Festival on Facebook and Twitter @SacredArtsFest for updates on the 2022 programme or visit <https://www.edinburghsacredartsfestival.org>

CONCERTS

There are no concerts at Canongate Kirk in March but the following concerts will be taking place at St Giles' Cathedral:

Wetherby Preparatory School Choir on Saturday 19th March at 1.30pm. Free admission. St Giles' Choir will be performing 'Wings of Peace', a special evening of choral music for the Burns and Beyond event on Thursday 31st March at 7.30pm. Tickets from <https://burnsandbeyond.online.red61.co.uk/event/2147:93/2147:2912/>

Details of more concert events at St Giles' in March can be found at <https://stgilescathedral.org.uk/march-2022-concert-diary/>

QUEEN'S GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

Two new exhibitions are opening this month. First is *Seven Portraits – Surviving the Holocaust* is a new exhibition at the Queen's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse starting on Thursday 17th March until June 6th. This special display has been commissioned by HRH The Prince of Wales to pay tribute to the stories of seven remarkable Holocaust survivors, each of whom has in recent years been honoured for services to Holocaust awareness and education. Painted by leading artists, the portraits will become part of the Royal Collection. For tickets and information visit <https://bit.ly/3KdIpiC>

The second exhibition, *Masterpieces of Buckingham Palace*, opens on 25th March until 25th September and is a chance to view some of the greatest works from the Royal Collection, with works by Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Rubens and Artemisia Gentileschi removed from the Picture Gallery at Buckingham Palace in this wonderful show. For tickets and information visit <https://bit.ly/3sHW0Ji>

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

Website: www.canongatekirk.org.uk  @CanongateKirk  @canongate.kirk
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