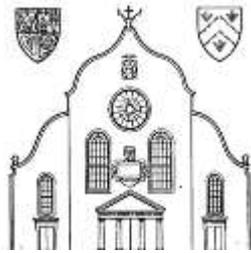


# CANONGATE KIRK THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE & EDINBURGH CASTLE

## Newsletter May 2020



### MINISTER'S LETTER

My diary is full of commitments all scored out as a result of the current restrictions – the latest major one being the Installation of the Governor of Edinburgh Castle, which should have taken place on the Castle Esplanade on the evening of 29<sup>th</sup> April and in which I would normally have been taking part as Chaplain to the Governor. We look forward to the rescheduling of General Alastair's installation in due course, and indeed to welcoming him back to the Governor's Pew in Canongate Kirk eventually. Looking ahead, I would also have been taking part in events marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day on 8<sup>th</sup> May, but of course those plans have changed too. In this case the anniversary will still be marked, but on television and online rather than in local and national gatherings. Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, the day itself, was marked by local and national church services of thanksgiving – there was one in Canongate Kirk, though Ronnie Selby Wright would not return home until December 1945; and in the House of Commons, Winston Churchill moved "That this House do now attend at the Church of St Margaret, Westminster, to give humble and reverent thanks to Almighty God for our deliverance..." It's worth remembering that VE Day marked Victory in Europe, not the end of the Second World War altogether, and that Allied Forces would have to fight on for several months in appalling conditions in the Far East, until VJ Day could be declared in August. A poster of the time vividly depicted a Japanese serpent rising from a clump of victory garlands: *Amid the laurels, it proclaimed, an enemy yet to conquer.*

Which rather brings us back to the current crisis and another enemy yet to conquer, an enemy that has messed up all our diaries and frustrated so many plans and preparations. Not to mention the lives it has claimed and the anxiety it has visited on so many. For the moment we can but pray for all who suffer and for all who strive to defeat it on so many fronts, in hospital wards, care homes and research laboratories, and look ahead in faith and hope to the services of thanksgiving that will surely be held when safe to do so, and which will just as surely begin with the great Easter hymn we have thus far been denied:

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

## **CRISIS COVER**

Please remember to let the office know if you – or someone you know – could do with some help getting food or medicines, or would just appreciate a phone call to chat with somebody different?!

## **ONLINE BIBLE STUDY**

Rev Breda Ludik has taken our latest Bible Study series online – whether you've participated before or not, why not take a look at his thoughtful insights into the Book of Revelation, appearing every Wednesday morning on our website?

<https://www.canongatekirk.org.uk/congregation/bible-study/>

## **OFFERINGS**

Some members have been asking for Canongate Kirk's bank details so that they can arrange electronic transfers to continue to support the Church's work during the current crisis. If you'd like those details please e mail [canongatekirk@btinternet.com](mailto:canongatekirk@btinternet.com) and we'll pass them on. Meanwhile if you usually give via weekly envelopes, please save them up at home and we'll get them eventually!

## **ANNUAL REVIEW**

The Canongate Kirk Annual Review 2019/2020 was posted out to our members in and around Edinburgh before Easter. If for any reason you have not received a copy and would like one, please let the office know.

## **LIFE AND WORK**

This month's Life and Work, the monthly magazine of the Church of Scotland, is available for all on-line whether you subscribe to it or not. For a range of articles including an interview with the Moderator Designate, The Rev Dr Martin Fair, who was due to be installed at this month's now cancelled General Assembly, please follow this link: <https://www.lifeandwork.org/downloads/life-and-work-may-2020.pdf>

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

The annual fundraising week – including the world famous book sale at St Andrew's and St George's West – will not go ahead this month as usual. If you would like to learn more about Christian Aid and to contribute to its valuable work in the poorest and most vulnerable parts of the world, please follow this link:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved-locally/scotland>

## **CROSSREACH**

The Church of Scotland's social care arm is looking for volunteers – can you help? Please follow this link <https://bit.ly/2YwhKJt> to find out how to help and to read about Crossreach's latest work.

## **CALLING ALL CRAFTERS AND SEWING PEOPLE**

Could you make face masks for volunteers and key workers in the Old Town? The Crannie, a community centre based off the Royal Mile in Cranston Street, is the HQ for Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust. Thanks to a local grant, EODT can provide the pattern, materials and any equipment you might need. If you would like to be part of this team effort please email: [carol@eotdt.org](mailto:carol@eotdt.org)

## PARISH REGISTER

Unfortunately, two weddings due to be held in April had to be postponed because of the restrictions but we look forward to rescheduled celebrations in due course.

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Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	<a href="mailto:canongatekirk@btinternet.com">canongatekirk@btinternet.com</a>	
<i>The office is currently closed but Imogen continues to work from home: Mon, Wed 9am – 1pm, Fri 8am – 12 noon</i>			
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