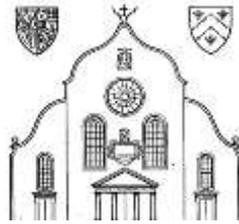


**CANONGATE KIRK  
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE  
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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

**Newsletter May 2022**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

I'm not quite old enough to qualify for a reunion of those who served in the Falklands campaign forty years ago, but this month I will be attending a dinner in London for officers of the Scots Guards exactly thirty years to the day since we deployed to West Belfast on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1992. I remember it well! We flew from Germany in Hercules troop-carrying planes and landed at Aldergrove before being bundled into the back of an unmarked van and delivered to the Battalion's secure compound at Musgrave Park which was to be my home for the next six months.

Whenever I'm asked what I enjoyed most about army chaplaincy, I often say that the two years in Hong Kong were the most fun but that those six months in West Belfast were the most fulfilling. Because they encapsulated what chaplains do, accompanying the soldiers to areas of conflict and ministering to them in church services and visits to barracks and hospitals, and generally offering whatever form of pastoral support was required at any given time. Whilst I always knew what I would do when I came to leave the Army, it will be fascinating to find out what others have done in the intervening years and I'm very much looking forward to our reunion.

In these weeks after Easter, the disciples were similarly looking forward to a reunion. At the time of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus they had separated and scattered. But now, St Matthew tells us at 28:16, "the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him..."

As a congregation we've been kind of separated and scattered ourselves over the last couple of years - if you have yet to come back to Canongate Kirk since restrictions lifted, why not plan a reunion of your own?! There's no better time than in these weeks after Easter and you can be sure of a warm welcome back.

*Neil Gardner*

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

10 <sup>th</sup> April	James Donald John Philp	<i>St Margaret's Chapel</i>
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Tillia Elizabeth Anne Ogilvy-Wedderburn	<i>Perthshire</i>
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Angus James Sam Ogilvy-Wedderburn	<i>Perthshire</i>

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..."*

### Weddings

9 <sup>th</sup> April	Louise Lake & Ronan Collins	
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Whitney Webster & Matthew Buell	<i>St Margaret's Chapel</i>

*"Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide."*

### Funerals

7 <sup>th</sup> April	Ben Smith	Gilberstoun
11 <sup>th</sup> April	Elizabeth Fulton	Gullane
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Grace Jones	Skirling
29 <sup>th</sup> April	Isabel Rutherford	Dunbar

*"Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."*

## PRAYER FOR THE DAY, BBC RADIO 4

The Minister supplied the early morning Prayer for the Day on BBC Radio 4 for Holy Week this year, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April. Still available on the [BBC Sounds](#) website.

## ANNUAL REVIEW

The Annual Review 2021/2022 has now been printed and posted out to members and friends for whom we have postal addresses. If for some reason you haven't received one, and would like to, please get in touch with the office. Copies are always available for collection in church.

## OPEN KIRK

With restrictions easing and visitors on the Royal Mile increasing, we would like tentatively to restart Open Kirk on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May. To begin with we shall focus on Sunday afternoons **only** and volunteers are encouraged to sign up for slots from 12-2pm or from 2- 4pm on the board in the Kirk foyer. The hope is that the first shift might appeal to someone who has come to church and could stay on for a while after the service. If you have not helped to welcome visitors and tourists before, and would like to find out more, please have a word with Lesley Wallace, our Open Kirk Co-ordinator.

## YEHUDI MENUHIN SCHOOL

Once again we are very pleased to be hosting seven teenage musicians from The Yehudi Menuhin School on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm. These talented artists come from UK, Serbia, Turkey, Georgia and Japan. The programme will include pieces by Liszt, Fauré and Schumann. Tickets £15, under 16's £7.50 at the door or from [www.musicinblairatholl.co.uk](http://www.musicinblairatholl.co.uk) where you can also find more details of the concert. All proceeds will go towards our own church funds. All welcome!

## PLATINUM JUBILEE SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE

The Kirk Session has agreed that Canongate Kirk's celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee should take place at our regular morning service at 10.30am on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, when the Church also celebrates Pentecost. Members of staff at the Palace of Holyroodhouse will be invited, along with their families, as will members of the High

Constables and Guard of Honour of Holyroodhouse, and the service will be followed by a glass of something fizzy in the courtyard, weather permitting. Do come along and help celebrate this truly unique milestone. If you'd like to lend a hand in advance or on the day, please have a word with the Minister or Session Clerk. All welcome.

### **SAFEGUARDING**

As part of the Kirk Session's legal responsibilities as Trustees, a number of elders recently underwent online training on the important subject of safeguarding – essentially the protection of children and vulnerable adults who come to church services and events. As we emerge from the pandemic determined that everyone should continue to feel safe within our walls, it is essential that in this regard too, everyone should feel safe and be aware of the structures in place to offer support. Dinah Croy is our safe-guarding co-ordinator and anyone who would like to know more, or raise any specific concerns, should speak with her in the first instance or with any member of the Kirk Session.

### **BOOKS FOR BORROWING**

Did you know that in the foyer cupboard at the Kirk there is a shelf of books with particular relevance to Canongate that can be borrowed by anyone, not least newcomers to the church or parish? Some of them specifically tell the history of our church and parish, others focus on military connections or other associations – the latest addition is a book by Heidi Kuhn, who recently gave a talk on her charity work turning minefields into vineyards in Afghanistan.

### **EDINBURGH MARATHON 29<sup>th</sup> MAY**

From our particular perspective, one of the potential downsides to a return to how life used to be is the return of occasional events that prevent easy access to the Royal Mile on a Sunday morning! One early example is the Edinburgh Marathon on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May, which will inevitably cause a certain amount of disruption to the city centre. It's worth allowing a little longer to get to church that morning, and remembering that we continue to livestream services in the meantime!

### **BLOTTING PAPER**

Does anyone have any spare blotting paper lying around at home? It's almost impossible to buy such a thing these days – the Pen Shop in Multrees Walk used to be a reliable source, but it closed long ago. Wedding schedules still require to be signed in proper ink, and blotted immediately afterwards for safety!

### **CHURCH OF SCOTLAND RESPONDS TO UKRAINE CRISIS**

Church of Scotland congregations have been moved by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the plight of millions of refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries. The Church of Scotland has now established a Ukraine Response Group to coordinate the Church's response. Visit <https://bit.ly/3vaAiPe> to find out about actions being taken.

### **GIFFORD LECTURE SERIES 2022**

Professor Susan Neiman will present this year's Edinburgh University Gifford lecture series during the month of May. Professor Neiman is Director of the Einstein Forum in Potsdam. The series' title is Heroism for a Time of Victims and each lecture is free but booking is essential. To find out more about dates and times of individual lectures and to book visit <https://bit.ly/3LjQLGn>

## QR CODE

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. Meanwhile we have a new means of facilitating donations to Canongate Kirk, using this QR code. When scanned with your smart phone it will take you straight to our digital donations page.



## 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.

## QUEEN'S GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

*Seven Portraits – Surviving the Holocaust* Tickets and information: <https://bit.ly/3KdIpiC>  
Until June 6<sup>th</sup> 2022. *Masterpieces of Buckingham Palace* Tickets and information: <https://bit.ly/3sHW0Ji> Until 25<sup>th</sup> September.

## EXPLORING EDINBURGH

Last year, Luath Press published a book about the architecture of Edinburgh, *Exploring Edinburgh* by Robin Ward, which features Canongate Kirk among other Edinburgh landmarks. Each building in the book is photographed and its architecture and history explored in a fascinating and compelling way. Copies can be ordered at £10.99 direct from the publisher at <https://www.luath.co.uk/> with 20% off orders over £20 using the code LUATH2020 and 30% off over £50 with LUATH3050.

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Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	<a href="mailto:canongatekirk@btinternet.com">canongatekirk@btinternet.com</a>	0131 556 3515

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

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