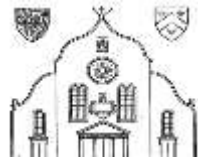


**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Newsletter November 2022



MINISTER'S LETTER

Last month I fulfilled a long-held ambition to visit the Commonwealth War Grave of one of my local heroes, The Revd James Kirk MC. He was once the minister of Dunbar Parish Church, our family church when I was a boy, but he left in 1915 to become chaplain to the Seaforth Highlanders in Northern France. And there he was to die of wounds sustained in battle, on 1st April 1918. I've always felt a close connection with him - we both went to St Andrews University, for instance, and then there's the Dunbar connection and the Army Chaplains' Department, and I was proud at last to be able to stand by his grave in Wimereux, on the French coast to the north of Boulogne, and lay a poppy wreath that I requisitioned from our own War Memorial Chapel in Canongate Kirk. What I've always admired most about him is that he became an Army Chaplain in 1915, the first Church of Scotland minister without a prior Regular or Territorial commission to do so. Those who were already serving when the First World War broke out in 1914 had little idea of what lay ahead. But by 1915 the harsh reality of trench warfare was much more widely known, and the horrific cost already being counted at home, but still James Kirk left his family and congregation behind in Dunbar, and headed for a very different coast. His bravery was soon borne out by his being Mentioned in Despatches in 1916 and awarded the Military Cross in 1917, before finally succumbing to wounds sustained at Arras, at a field hospital there in Wimereux.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

No more than a few yards from James Kirk lies John McCrae, the Canadian medic who wrote that most famous of war poems, In Flanders Fields. As Remembrance season draws near, it is ours to hold that torch high once again, to keep faith with those who died that we might live.

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

23rd October Margrethe Catherine Corbet Macnair
“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...”

Weddings

8th October Iona Scott Moncrieff & Glenn Forsyth
15th October Clare Sorensen & Iain Willis
“Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide.”

Funeral

28th October Raeph Ballantyne London & Edinburgh
“Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on Sunday 13th November, when our service, as before, will begin at 10.45am and include the traditional Act of Remembrance around 11am. There will be a retiring offering in aid of Poppy Scotland.

ORDINATION OF DOUGLAS REID

Having been appointed Associate Minister at Palmerston Place Church, our former Assistant Minister was ordained to the ministry of word and sacrament there at a service hosted by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian on Thursday 6th October. Our congregation was well represented and Neil preached the sermon, and we all wish Douglas well as he embarks on this exciting new chapter.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Many thanks to everyone who brought donations to this year's Harvest Thanksgiving service. These have now been delivered to the Edinburgh Trussell Trust Foodbank headquarters for distribution. Further donations of non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries can be brought any Sunday and left in the basket in the foyer.

HOLY COMMUNION

For the first time since before the pandemic the Sacrament of Holy Communion was incorporated into our morning service for All Saints on Sunday 30th October. We borrowed trays of individual glasses from Mayfield Salisbury Church to avoid the potential risks associated with passing a 'common cup' along the pew. The Kirk Session will continue to consider different options for Communion in future but if you have particular thoughts or suggestions on how things might be done differently do let us know.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Hilary Fleming has kindly agreed to co-ordinate the provision of church flowers Sunday by Sunday. Anyone who would like to help with this important aspect should get in touch with her on T: 0131 557 1214. No previous experience necessary.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

With thanks to those who have already volunteered to help with tea and coffee on a Sunday morning, anyone else wishing to help should give their name to David Croft who will coordinate the rota. The task, delivered in teams of two, should take up no more than 30 minutes of anyone's time and would hopefully be required no more than once every six weeks.

OPEN KIRK

The season has now come to an end and thanks are due to our willing volunteers who have been ready to welcome tourists and visitors to Canongate Kirk, not least on Sunday afternoons over the last few months. It was especially good to be able to open our doors over the weekend following The Queen's death, when some 3500 visitors called in, some to sit quietly in a pew or to stand before Her late Majesty's photograph at the chancel step.

REMAINING MEDIA ITEM

Time for Reflection which the Minister delivered in the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday 20th September, the morning after The late Queen's funeral, can still be seen at <https://www.scottishparliament.tv/meeting/time-for-reflection-september-20-2022>

NEW PICTURE OF CANONGATE KIRK

We have recently discovered a new print showing the façade of our kirk, painted by local artist Jennifer Court. See her website at

<https://www.jennifer-court.co.uk/product-page/canongate-church-edinburgh-print-with-gold-gouache-highlight>

NEW EXHIBITION

Respect! Caribbean Life in Edinburgh is a new exhibition at the Museum of Edinburgh celebrating the culture of Caribbean Scottish people through museum objects, poetry, music & film. It has been created in collaboration with The Edinburgh Caribbean Association and is well worth a look. Open every day 10am -5pm. Admission free.

BLACKWELL'S EVENT

On Thursday 10th November at 6.30pm, Randall Munroe, bestselling author of *What If?*, will be talking about his highly anticipated second instalment *What If? 2: Additional Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions* answering all those important 'extra' questions you probably never thought to ask. Doors open 6pm. Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-if-2-randall-munroe-tickets-408689319757> Randall will be signing copies of his books on the night, and there will be copies available to purchase, however it is recommended that you purchase a Book & Ticket option to avoid disappointment.

CONCERTS IN NOVEMBER

Friday 4th November at 4.30pm in the Harry Younger Hall A one hour concert played and presented by Laurence Perkins on bassoon with voice of Italian tenor Enrico Caruso. Tickets <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/laurence-perkins> or on the door.

Saturday 5th November at 7.30pm The Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society will give a concert performance of *Patience*. Tickets £15/Children £5 from <https://bit.ly/3RUXglm> or on the door.

Saturday 26th November at 5.30pm. The Edinburgh Guitar and Mandolin Orchestra perform together with Da Capo Alba Mandolin Orchestra. Tickets on the door.

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 additions include a book by Heidi Kuhn,

who recently gave a talk on her charity work turning minefields into vineyards in Afghanistan, and *Celebrating Seventy-Five Years 1947 – 2022*, an oral history of St John Scotland, its work and its volunteers.



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.

QR CODE

We remain hugely grateful to everyone who has supported Canongate Kirk financially by various methods over the last 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.



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Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	canongatekirk@btinternet.com	0131 556 3515
<i>Usual Office Hours: Mon 9am – 1pm, Wed 9am – 1pm, Thurs 9am- 12, Fri 8am - 12</i>			
Website: www.canongatekirk.org.uk		 @CanongateKirk	 @canongate.kirk
Scottish Charity SC 015251			

