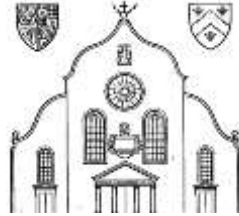


**CANONGATE KIRK  
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE  
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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

**Newsletter November 2024**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

From time to time during the course of the last few months a couple of pipe organ enthusiasts have been restoring the little chamber instrument at the back of our War Memorial Chapel. We're grateful to the Henry Creswick Trust for funding this project, which is almost complete. In the end the organ should both look and sound a lot better than it has for some time, and it will be fascinating to hear particularly how it sounds and then to consider how we might make use of it once again. It dates from the middle of the nineteenth century, and came to the Canongate about sixty years ago, but hasn't been played – or playable – for a good number of years. It's obviously on a much smaller scale than the more modern and much-admired Frobenius in the gallery and will produce a much gentler sound. It has only five stops, but they include the exotic-sounding Clarinet Flute and Viol de Gamba, and it's good to know that very soon new life, or new air at least, will literally be breathed into the pipes. Watch this space. Or should I say listen out?!

In the meantime the War Memorial Chapel will provide its usual focus for our service on Remembrance Sunday, this year falling on 10<sup>th</sup> November and beginning at the slightly later time of 10.45am. Once again this year we are fortunate to have secured the support of a piper and bugler from the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Dancing out at Redford Barracks. They always bring such a stirring and poignant dimension to our Act of Remembrance. Earlier this year events marking the eightieth anniversary of the D-Day landings on the beaches of Normandy in June 1944 included references to Bill Millin, the personal piper to Lord Lovat, who courageously played under persistent enemy fire to stir on his fellow soldiers as they landed on Sword Beach, and later as they walked across Pegasus Bridge. The skirl of these pipes echoes across the years, and this year our piper's lament promises to be no less moving than usual. And as our Act of Remembrance comes to an end, the bugler's Reveille will re-awaken us once again to our collective responsibility never to forget the sacrifice of all those who for our tomorrow gave their today.

*Neil Gardner*

## PARISH REGISTER

### Service of blessing

28<sup>th</sup> October William James Adam Blythe *St Margaret's Chapel*  
Jessica Jane Polly Blythe *St Margaret's Chapel*  
"Then he took them in his arms and blessed them."

### Wedding

12<sup>th</sup> October Sarah Thomson & Charles Callander *Humbie Kirk*  
"Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide."

## PARISH GROUPING WITH ST GILES'

### United Evening Service

In place of our usual monthly evening service in Canongate, members of our congregation are encouraged to attend a service of Choral Evensong at St Giles' Cathedral at 6pm on Sunday 24th November 2024. The service will be sung by the combined choirs of St Giles', Paisley Abbey and St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral and some of the service will be recorded for future use by BBC Radio 4. Free tickets are available on [Eventbrite](#). The Congregation is asked to be seated by 5.45pm. Please note there will be no evening service in Canongate on Sunday 24th November or Sunday 29th December 2024.

### Young Adults Group

St Giles' have established a Young Adults Group for under 40s and would welcome any eligible contenders from Canongate. They plan to meet from time to time and if you are interested please email Rev Sam Nwokoro on [sam.nwokoro@stgilescathedral.org.uk](mailto:sam.nwokoro@stgilescathedral.org.uk)

### St Giles' Neighbourhood Group

The St Giles' Neighbourhood Group is a small group of volunteers who come together to raise money for local charities. They organise fund-raising activities such as a can collection on Princes Street at Christmas and help staff night kitchens for the homeless through the Bethany Trust. They are always looking for new members and would particularly welcome anyone in the Canongate congregation who might like to find out more about their work (with no obligation). Anyone is welcome to simply observe an (online) meeting or contact us to find out more. Please get in touch with Alan Convery at [alanconvery@hotmail.com](mailto:alanconvery@hotmail.com) at St Giles'.

## HIGH CONSTABLES

Our morning service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November will include the Kirking of the High Constables and Guard of Honour of Holyroodhouse, and we look forward to welcoming the Constables and their families back to the Kirk of Holyroodhouse.

## NEW BOOK ON HOLYROODHOUSE

*The Palace of Holyroodhouse – A House of Many Memories* is a brand new publication by former Holyroodhouse senior curator Deborah Clarke. Drawing on new research and richly illustrated with historical drawings, photos and watercolours, this is the first official history of the palace ever published and has been many years in the making. More information and a link to order at <https://www.rct.uk/about/news-and-features/palace-of-holyroodhouses-dramatic-past-revealed-in-first-official-history>

## **REMEMBRANCE 2024**

Remembrance Sunday this year falls on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November when our service will begin slightly later than usual at 10.45am. Once again our service will be supported by an army piper and bugler. There will be a retiring offering in aid of Poppy Scotland and a short wreath-laying ceremony by the War Memorial afterwards. Poppies are available at the back of the church.

## **CRAFT CLUB**

The Craft club continues to meet monthly in the Harry Younger Hall on the second Wednesday of each month from 6.30pm – 8pm with the next meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. The group is open to crafters and non-crafters, skilled and non-skilled alike – you can be sure of a friendly welcome.

## **ST MARGARET'S DAY**

A special service is to be held in Canongate Kirk at 11.30am on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, St Margaret's Day. Usually on that day a series of short services is held in St Margaret's Chapel in Edinburgh Castle for members and guests of St Margaret's Chapel Guild, but this year as part of the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Burgh of Edinburgh by King David I (Queen Margaret's son) this one service will be held in our own Kirk of Edinburgh Castle, and all are welcome. Supported by the St Margaret's Singers and shared with representatives of the Scottish Episcopal Church and of the Roman Catholic Church, it will reinforce our connections with St Margaret's Chapel Guild and the tiny chapel that bears her name in the upper reaches of our parish.

## **ST ANDREW'S DAY**

The annual service organised by the Society of Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem will take place in St Cuthbert's Church at 2pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. The guest preacher will be The Very Reverend Sally Foster-Fulton, ex Moderator and chair of Christian Aid. All welcome.

## **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

A reminder that we have a limited stock of Canongate Christmas cards available for purchase.

## **CANONGATE KIRK CHRISTMAS SUPPER**

Tickets for our congregational festive gathering for supper and carols on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6.45pm in the Harry Younger Hall are now available from David Croft at £12 each. All welcome!

## **LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS**

Although our schedule of services has yet to be finalised it is likely that this year's traditional service of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, when we will also be joined by members of the Edinburgh Royal Warranholders Association. With this in mind our usual 'home-grown' choir is invited to gather round the piano for rehearsals at 9.30am from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December onwards. First timers welcome!

## **SEASON OF REFLECTION AND RENEWAL**

Last year this ran from Harvest to Remembrance and gave members and friends an opportunity to identify ways in which they could help with the smooth running of Canongate Kirk Sunday by Sunday, and at other times too. If you're new to the congregation, or feeling more confident about volunteering this year, copies of the original form can be found once again at the back of the King David Aisle - feel free to fill one in and leave it in the box and we'll get back to you!

## YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

As a result of last year's season of reflection and renewal there are rotas in place for volunteers to sign up to help with Sunday duties – if you'd like to be part of the welcoming face of Canongate Kirk, giving out hymn books and orders of service and taking up the collection etc, please sign up against any particular Sunday. There's a rota for those who would like to read lessons too. Not to mention the rotas to help with tea and coffee after the service, to arrange flowers in advance, and to support Open Kirk's remit of welcoming visitors and tourists at weekends. There are lots of opportunities to work with and get to know other members of the family of our congregation – don't be shy!

## OPEN KIRK

After the busy summer season when we were open to visitors every day, we have now reverted to weekends only. But they can still be busy and if members and friends of the congregation can take a turn to make visitors welcome on Saturday mornings and afternoons as well as Sunday afternoons, that would be much appreciated. We also hope to be open from 27<sup>th</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> January when the Royal Mile can be particularly busy with visitors for the festive season. Volunteers can sign up on the board in the foyer. Thank you!

## NEXT CONCERT

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 12 noon, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will celebrate 100 years of its Edinburgh branch with a concert at Canongate Kirk with musicians Muriel Johnstone, Pete Clark, Tim Macdonald and Peter Shand. For dancers and non-dancers alike! Tickets £10 from [www.rscdsedinburgh.org](http://www.rscdsedinburgh.org) or on the door.

## FURTHER CONCERTS IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov</b>	<b>2pm</b>	Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland	Admission Free
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	Scottish Chamber Choir	£15/£7
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	St Andrew Orchestra	£10/£5
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	Open Orchestra	Admission Free
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>5pm</b>	Calton Consort	£15/£12
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	St Andrew Camerata	£12/£10

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

You might like advance notice of the fact that members of the congregation would be welcome to attend any of the following charity carol services:

<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	6pm	Armed Forces' Charities
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	4pm	Royal British Legion Scotland
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	6pm	Crisis Homelessness Charity
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	7pm	The Order of St John

Minister: The Revd Neil Gardner [nng22@btinternet.com](mailto:nng22@btinternet.com) 0131 556 3515

Kirk Secretary: Imogen Gibson (office) [canongatekirk@btinternet.com](mailto:canongatekirk@btinternet.com) 0131 556 3515

*Office Opening Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am – 1pm. Thursday 9am - 12*

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