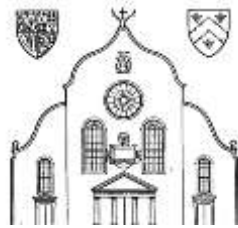


**CANONGATE KIRK  
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE  
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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

**Newsletter October 2023**





**MINISTER'S LETTER**

**A SEASON OF REFLECTION AND RENEWAL**

That's what we're calling the weeks between Harvest Thanksgiving and Remembrance this year. It's traditionally a season of reflection, of looking back and giving thanks for everything from the crops in the fields to the lives lost on the battlefields. It's just that this time round we're adding in the element of renewal to build on all that. The last few years have not been easy for churches, and Canongate is no exception. But there is now a strong sense of our emerging from the challenges of the past and in order to help us get ready to meet the challenges of the future, the Kirk Session has agreed that this coming season of reflection and renewal will bring with it an opportunity for members of our congregation to identify particular areas of our Kirk's life in which they might have a particular interest or experience, and with which they might be prepared to get a bit more involved. Whether it's being willing to read lessons at a Sunday service, or helping with teas and coffees after the service or offering a welcome beforehand, or arranging flowers or stewarding concerts, or lending a hand with the essential property or financial or pastoral or social or ecumenical sides of the church's life, a range of options and opportunities will be set out in a form which will be given out every Sunday between Harvest and Remembrance.

This is a local initiative which has come out of a forward planning workshop which the Kirk Session held some months ago and I commend it not only to your interest but to your active support. The same applies to Harvest Thanksgiving itself, to be held this year on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October, when donations of non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries will be welcome. These will be transferred to the Trussell Trust network of Edinburgh foodbanks that we support all year round via the basket in the foyer. Cash donations to our own fund in support of local homeless people will also be possible.

It was John Keats who famously described autumn as a "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness." As Harvest Thanksgiving launches our own season of reflection and renewal, may this be a time of fruitfulness and thankfulness too.

|   |                        |  |   |
|---|------------------------|--|---|
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| Website: <a href="http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk">www.canongatekirk.org.uk</a>             |                        |  @CanongateKirk |  @canongate.kirk |
| Scottish Charity SC 015251  |                        |  |   |

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptism

3<sup>rd</sup> September      Sholto Leathan Campbell Blair      *at Arthur Lodge*  
*“Then he took them in his arms and blessed them.”*

### Weddings

1<sup>st</sup> September      Philippa Boyd & John Cooper  
2<sup>nd</sup> September      Sophie Huckfield & Jamie Menzies      *at Humbie Kirk*  
*“Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide.”*

### Funeral

1<sup>st</sup> September      Margarethe Walker      Cramond Residence  
*“Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”*

## REV BREDA LUDIK

It was with great sadness that we received news of the death of Breda Ludik, who spent a year on a familiarisation placement with Canongate Kirk in 2019/20. After leaving us he was appointed minister of St Andrew's Lhanbryd and Urquhart near Elgin but died peacefully at home in South Africa on 7<sup>th</sup> September. We remember his ministry among us with gratitude to God, and assure Francé and the family of our love and our prayers. The Church of Scotland has published an obituary which can be read here:

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/articles/obituary-rev-breda-ludik>

## OPEN KIRK

Now that Doors Open weekend - when we welcomed nearly 1,200 visitors - is over, the current season comes to an end on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September. As always grateful thanks are due to our willing volunteers ensuring the church has been open over many weekends. Weekdays were successfully covered by our summer intern Madalaine Wallace, who welcomed thousands of visitors between the beginning of July and the middle of September. The next opportunity to help with Open Kirk will come between Christmas and New Year and volunteers will be sought nearer the time.

## CANDIDATE IN TRAINING

We will be joined by Trevor Martindale on a short placement as part of his training for ministry in the Church of Scotland, in October and November. We look forward to welcoming him among us.

## ROBERT FERGUSSON

We are glad to report that the poet's statue by David Annand has finally been repaired and returned to his customary place outside our front gate. He is looking fit and refreshed!

## MARGARET BUCHANAN

Still on the theme of historical figures with a Canongate connection, we have been informed that a portrait painted by Sir Henry Raeburn of the wife of The Revd Walter Buchanan is currently on display in the dining room of the National Trust for Scotland's Georgian House in Charlotte Square. It's part of a special exhibition which runs until November, marking the 200th anniversary of the artist's death and featuring a number of his Edinburgh portraits, all from the NTS collection. Walter Buchanan was minister here during the early decades of the nineteenth century, and overlapped with The Revd Robert Walker, more famously depicted

by Raeburn as the Skating Minister! We have a large portrait of Walter on the back wall of the Kirk. His wife Margaret, who died in 1847, was a noted abolitionist in her own right.

Meanwhile, two further portraits by Henry Raeburn with a Canongate connection have come to light. A portrait of Benjamin Bell, a leading surgeon during the period of the Enlightenment, found a home in the USA for the last few decades, but has recently been locally acquired in the hope that it will now remain here in Edinburgh. Benjamin Bell is buried in our Kirkyard, to the right hand side as you go through the gates. Also recently spotted in the window of George Pirie Antiques in Howe Street is a portrait of Dr James Gregory, another distinguished medic who lies buried in our Kirkyard, next to Adam Smith.

### **CRAFT CLUB**

Our Kirk craft club meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month, with the next regular meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October from 6.30 – 8pm in the Harry Younger Hall. The group is open to crafters and non-crafters alike – you can be sure of a friendly welcome!

### **HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

Our traditional service of Harvest Thanksgiving will take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am. The congregation is invited to bring along donations of non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries, which will be transferred afterwards to the Trussell Trust Edinburgh Foodbank network. Cash donations may also be given for our own Homeless Fund.

### **FLOWER ARRANGING DEMONSTRATION**

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 10am – 12 noon there will be a free demonstration in Canongate Kirk by Garlands Florist who have been providing beautiful blooms for all sorts of occasions in the church for many years. All welcome, but please email Hilary Fleming [hilly557@icloud.com](mailto:hilly557@icloud.com) in advance if you plan to attend.

### **REMEMBRANCE**

Advance notice that Remembrance Sunday this year falls on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November when our service will begin slightly later than usual at 10.45am.

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Don't forget that Canongate Kirk has commissioned a new Christmas card this year, featuring the palace pew's replica of the Honours of Scotland that were presented to HM The King in St Giles' Cathedral in July. These are in two different sizes and now available for purchase in packs of 10 @ £5, all proceeds to church funds. One or two previous cards featuring cartoons of Canongate choirboys have been reprinted and are also available for purchase.

### **EVENT AT ST COLUMBA'S BY THE CASTLE**

*'Dreaming of the Holy Rood - a Liturgy of the Incarnation based on the Ruthwell Cross'* is the title of a special service of hymns, readings and projections contemplating the life and mission of Christ through images from the Ruthwell Cross. Developed by Timothy J Ray, during a spiritual retreat in Ruthwell, the service will be accompanied by an exhibition of the illustrations for the liturgy created by Cat Outram. The event will take place at 7pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October in St Columba's by the Castle, 14 Johnston Terrace, EH1 2PW.

### **CONCERTS IN CANONGATE**

The recent charity concert organised in conjunction with The Royal Scots raised approximately £3,000 for British Ukrainian Aid. Our next concert will be given by the Scottish Meditation Choir at 7.30pm on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October £19.50/£14.50.

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