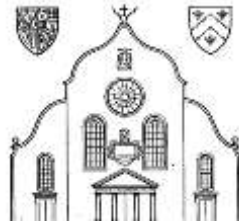


**CANONGATE KIRK**  
**THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE**  
**& EDINBURGH CASTLE**  
[www.canongatekirk.org.uk](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk)  
**Newsletter October 2021**



**ASSISTANT MINISTER'S LETTER**

Climate change is probably going to be a significant topic in the news and conversations this month with the build up to Glasgow hosting COP26 from 1<sup>st</sup> November. With increasing extremes of weather, we can perhaps sense something of the urgency of addressing climate change, but we are also blessed to be sheltered from many of its immediate consequences in Scotland. We do not face our entire country being submerged by rising tides, or the extreme heat and wildfires faced in drier climates, but already we are having warmer summers and wetter winters.

At times, I have been rather cavalier about environmental concerns on the basis that climate change was unlikely to materially impact upon me. But that attitude was selfish, short-sighted and contrary to the principles of love and care central to the Christian faith I follow. Humanity has been given a task by God to care for this planet, as custodians, not as lords and masters. We read at the start of the Bible, at Genesis 2:15, that “The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” Not, “The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to work it,” and not, “The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it.” There should be balance, the obligation to both work and care for Eden, and by extension the whole Earth. Yet, left to our own devices humanity tends to put the work aspect ahead of the care. However, God has not left us entirely without guidance, we have the example of Christ.

What Christ offers through the cross is a way back to God, to perfection. That perfection includes a perfect world and perfect Creation. As a body the work of Christ's church on Earth, which includes the Church of Scotland and Canongate Kirk, is to act to bring about a state in this world which is as close to the Kingdom of God as can be managed with the help and guidance of God. That then must include playing our part in achieving the balance lost at the fall between working Eden and caring for Eden.

There are a lot of events on this month at Canongate and in our neighbouring churches, including talks in the Harry Younger Hall and Old St Paul's this month. Canongate is also hosting a service for the Young Christians Climate Network who are walking from St Ives to Glasgow for COP26. The service is at 5:30pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. It would be great if you could support some or all of these events and show the world something of our Church's concerns for planet Earth.

## PARISH REGISTER

### Marriage Blessing

4<sup>th</sup> September      The Earl and Countess of Southesk      *at Kinnaird Castle*

### Wedding

17<sup>th</sup> September      Annie Ebenston and Tom Burrows  
*Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide.*

### Funerals

9<sup>th</sup> September      Mary Gardner      *at Melrose*  
20<sup>th</sup> September      Alistair Ballantyne      *at Perth*

### Interment of Ashes

11<sup>th</sup> September      Lou Storie      *Grange Cemetery*  
28<sup>th</sup> September      Ian MacIntyre      *Warriston Cemetery*

### Memorial Service

25<sup>th</sup> September      Brigadier Charles Ritchie  
*“Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”*

## SUNDAY SERVICES

At its recent meeting the Kirk Session agreed that now that numbers are no longer limited we need no longer ask members of the congregation to let us know if they plan to attend church week by week. We still require to keep a list of names and numbers for track and trace purposes, and this will simply be dealt with at the church door. There's a feeling that the need to give notice might have deterred some folk from coming along on the spur of the moment – if that's the case, please don't be deterred anymore! Things are slowly but surely returning to more like they used to be – another aspect the Kirk Session approved was a return soon to the provision of tea and coffee after the service, and the chance of a chat that comes with it. We're getting there!

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Our service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October will take the form of a Harvest Thanksgiving – as in previous years prior to the pandemic the congregation is invited to bring along donations of non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries, which will be transferred afterwards to Streetwork, the resource centre for the homeless in Holyrood Road. Cash donations may also be given for our own Homeless Fund.

## ALL SAINTS

On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October our service will include a commemoration of those members of our congregation and wider church family who have died in the course of the last eighteen months and whose funerals were necessarily limited to immediate family only. After the service there will be a short celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion (bread only) for those who wish to stay behind.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Advance notice that this year Remembrance Sunday falls on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November, when our service, as before, will begin at 10.45am and include the traditional Act of Remembrance at 11am.

## UPDATE FROM THE ECO TEAM

*From Alexis Moyer:* In the run up to COP26 in November, we've been focusing on two main events. The first is a Climate Change themed Lecture Series run jointly with our friends at Old St. Paul's. The first lecture will take place in the **Harry Younger Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm** and will feature Martin Baker and Alexis Moyer as they speak about their personal journeys and thoughts on climate change after years working in the Antarctic and Arctic. The second lecture in the series will take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7pm at Old St. Paul's, where the Moderator of the Church of Scotland Rt Hon Lord Wallace will speak on 'What on Earth is the church doing?' in relation to climate change.

Our second focus in the run up to COP26 is hosting a Welcome Service and reception for members of the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN). Members of the group have been walking from St. Ives in England all the way to Glasgow, and we'll be welcoming them as they approach Edinburgh on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. This will include a short church service led by Neil on the **20<sup>th</sup> October at 5:30pm**, followed by dinner for members of the YCCN at Old St. Paul's. It's crucial we have a good number of folk from our congregation to welcome them that evening, so I encourage those available to come along and meet some lovely young people, who will also share a bit with us about their journey.

## PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

The current exhibition *Victoria and Albert: Our Lives in Watercolour* is about to end on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Meanwhile members of the congregation might also be interested to know that within the rooms of the Palace itself is a temporary exhibition celebrating the life and achievements of The Duke of Edinburgh. A fascinating selection of paintings, photographs and other items includes the silver key which His Royal Highness used to open the inner door of Canongate Kirk in June 1953!

## DOUBLE ORGAN RECITAL BY SIMON LEACH

Simon Leach performs a recital across two significant organs from either end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: the 1919 Norman & Beard / William Hill & Son organ of Marchmont House, and our own 1998 Frobenius organ. The concert is organised by the Glasgow Society of Organists and will be available on their You Tube channel <https://bit.ly/3kPA4ry> at 3pm on Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> and for one month thereafter.

## CHRISTIAN AID SALE

There will be a sale of pictures and Scottish books at St Andrew's and St George's West Church, 13 George Street, Edinburgh from Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 10am – 3pm. Currently the organisers are requesting donations of pictures (not books) so if you have any you could spare, please contact the convenor Mary Davidson on T: 0131 556 2168 or 07714 186 754 to arrange for collection or delivery. Over the past ten years, sales at St Andrew's and St George's West Church have raised over a million pounds for Christian Aid – please consider donating once again.

Minister	The Revd Neil Gardner	<a href="mailto:nng22@btinternet.com">nng22@btinternet.com</a>	0131 556 3515
Assistant Minister	Douglas Reid	<a href="mailto:Douglas.Reid@churchofscotland.org.uk">Douglas.Reid@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>	07960251971
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 – 1pm, Fri 8am – 12 noon.*

Website: [www.canongatekirk.org.uk](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk)  @CanongateKirk  @canongate.kirk  
Scottish Charity SC 015251