

**CANONGATE KIRK**  
**THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE**  
**& EDINBURGH CASTLE**  
[www.canongatekirk.org.uk](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk)  
**Newsletter November 2020**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

Remembrance will have a very different feel to it this year without the usual parades and large-scale gatherings. At Canongate Kirk, with all our military connections and associations, it's usually our biggest service of the whole year – this time round it will be subject to the same restrictions as every other Sunday service. With no more than fifty allowed in church, many more will be relying on the livestreamed service on our website that has now become a fixture in many of our members' weekly routine. Do please remember to let others know of this option Sunday by Sunday.

Perhaps marking Remembrance Sunday to a greater extent in our own homes will prompt thoughts of the impact of war and conflict on the homes and families and friends of those who did not return. The verse that most immediately follows the very familiar lines by Laurence Binyon in his poem "For the Fallen" addresses this very issue:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

*They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;*

Binyon was the second of nine children brought up in a vicarage in Lancaster, and in turn he and his wife had three daughters. He would be well used to everyday family life and the hustle and bustle of a busy household. And he would be well able to imagine the silence that must have befallen so many homes in the aftermath of war. An empty chair by the fireside. One less place to set at table. As so many of us sit at our familiar tables of home this year, let us be mindful not just of those who gave their lives in the cause of peace and freedom, but of all those back home whose lives would simply never be the same again.

We will remember them too.

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

25<sup>th</sup> October Jamie Angus Wood & Toby Andrew Wood

*“Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”*

### Wedding

17<sup>th</sup> October Alanna Kerr & Richard Harrison

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

### Funeral

22<sup>nd</sup> October Henrietta Fergusson Killiecrankie

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

## ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

The current series on The Lord’s Prayer concludes on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020. All material is on the website at <https://www.canongatekirk.org.uk/congregation/bible-study-2/> Led by Rev Breda Ludik, the week’s study is posted on the website on Mondays with participation in group study either by email or our Zoom group. Anyone interested in participating in either format is welcome to contact Breda and he will add you to the mailing list for further instructions.

## OFFERINGS

A number of members have asked for Canongate Kirk’s bank details so that they can arrange electronic transfers to continue to support the Church’s work during the current crisis. If you’d like those details please e-mail [canongatekirk@btinternet.com](mailto:canongatekirk@btinternet.com) and we’ll pass them on. Donations can also be given via our website. Meanwhile if you usually give via weekly envelopes, please save them up at home and we’ll get them eventually!

## POPPY SCOTLAND

The Scottish Poppy Appeal is facing an unprecedented crisis as thousands of its volunteers are forced to stay at home because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Instead of donating via collection tins in church as usual, please donate via the Poppy Scotland website <https://www.poppyscotland.org.uk/> The demand on Poppy Scotland’s vital, life-changing services for the Armed Forces community is increasing rapidly so please give if you can.

## STREETWORK

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October we held a Harvest Thanksgiving service but without the usual appeal for donations of food and toiletries in support of Streetwork, the local resource centre for people struggling with homelessness and deprivation. Under the current circumstances our Kirk Session has agreed that direct financial donations should be encouraged – these can be made via the giving page on Streetwork’s website <https://www.streetwork.org.uk/donate-3/>

## FRESHSTART

Freshstart, the charity which helps formerly homeless people get established in their new home, are accepting donated items again on Tuesdays and Thursdays ONLY as they have limited space. Please RING BEFORE YOU BRING on 0131 476 7741 to make an appointment between 9.00-3.30pm on one of these days. For more information on what items they require or to donate money to their ‘Cookers for Christmas 2020’ campaign go to <https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/donate>

## WASHBAGS

We are once again collecting washbags for the Edinburgh charity Crisis. These will be distributed by the charity to homeless people over the Christmas period. A mix of male and female washbags would be ideal with any mix of toiletries, **but no razors, aerosols or hand sanitisers which contain alcohol.** A suggested list of items includes

- Shower Gel
- Soap
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Shaving foam
- Flannel

And anything else you would usually find in a washbag would be very much appreciated. Washbags can be delivered to church on Sundays until Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December or to the office during office hours until Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

## NEW MODERATOR

A former Deputy First Minister at the Scottish Parliament has been chosen to be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC (Jim Wallace) will become the Kirk's ambassador at home and abroad next May. The 66-year-old life peer from Orkney is the second elder in modern times to take up the 12-month role which will see him speaking out on issues important to the Church and its mission to follow and proclaim the example of Jesus Christ.

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