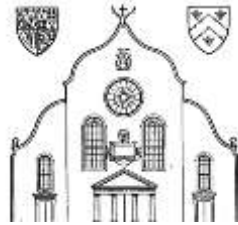


**CANONGATE KIRK  
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE  
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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

**Newsletter May 2023**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

There was a particular phrase that caught my attention in a recent BBC TV documentary where The King described his approach to the concept of succession in the monarchy. It was from an old interview given when he was a young Prince of Wales, in which he described his life as being “like a farmer’s son.” My late father was a farmer’s son, but the youngest of three boys. When war broke out in 1939, Dad and his eldest brother joined the Royal Navy and the Army respectively, and the middle brother stayed at home on the farm. In due course his son, my cousin, took it on and eventually his son will too. That’s how it works. But I’ve often wondered how things might have gone if Dad had been too young to go to war, and his big brothers went instead. I suspect that might have made me a farmer’s son and these days a farmer in the Borders, tending a different sort of flock, sowing a different sort of seed, reaping a different sort of harvest. And do you know I’m pretty sure I’d just have got on with it and accepted my lot “like a farmer’s son.”

King Charles might similarly speculate on how things might have gone for him if circumstances had been different. He too could well have become a farmer. But of course there has never been any question over what he would eventually do. His destiny has been set in stone since the moment he was born. Still, amongst all the powerful imagery and symbolism embedded in the elaborate detail of His Majesty’s Coronation in Westminster Abbey, I like to think of him metaphorically receiving the keys of the tractor along with everything else presented to him, and “like a farmer’s son” following with simple acceptance in the footsteps of those who have gone before. There’s a modern harvest hymn that coincidentally but helpfully combines these themes:

Praise God for the harvest of mercy and love,  
from leaders and peoples who struggle and serve  
with patience and kindness, that all may be led  
to freedom and justice, and all may be fed.

Praise God for the harvest, and God save the King!

*New Gardner*

## PARISH REGISTER

### Weddings

1<sup>st</sup> April Rachel Curry & James Goodenough

15<sup>th</sup> April Charlotte Ball & Reece Paprotny

29<sup>th</sup> April Suzannah Dunko & James Anderson

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

### Funeral

3<sup>rd</sup> April Patricia Monroe Maryland, USA *St Margaret’s Chapel*

### Memorial Service

14<sup>th</sup> April Dan Laidlaw late KOSB

### Interment of Ashes

20<sup>th</sup> April Peter de Vink Huntly Cot, Midlothian

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

## CORONATION CONCERT

In a welcome return to Canongate Kirk, some hugely talented young students from the Yehudi Menuhin School will perform a special eve of coronation concert at 3pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. The programme will be a celebration of 100 years of piano music including Chopin’s Études. Tickets £10/Under 16s £7.50 with all proceeds donated to Canongate Kirk. More information from [www.musicinblairatholl.co.uk](http://www.musicinblairatholl.co.uk) or from [alaviniagordon@gmail.com](mailto:alaviniagordon@gmail.com) T: 07850268820 Spectacular performances fit for a King – don’t miss it!

## CORONATION SUNDAY AND MONDAY

Our morning service at 10.30am on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May will inevitably reflect events in Westminster Abbey the previous day, and our organist will be supported by a trumpeter in the gallery. After the service there will be a celebratory reception in the courtyard – weather permitting. Please avoid parking there if you can. All are welcome, as will be donations to help off-set the cost. And on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May from 10am – 4pm as part of His Majesty The King’s coronation initiative The Big Help Out, the Crafting Club will be hosting a Coronation Craft-a-thon to make baby blankets for the Simpson Neonatal Unit. The Craft-a-thon will take place in the church. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Crafters can join for any part of the day, and all are welcome. Please contact the office to sign up or just turn up on the day!

## KIRK SESSION UPDATE

The Kirk Session met in the Harry Younger Hall on the evening of Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Thanks were recorded to James Anderson and David Croft for their hard work in producing the Annual Review, and likewise to Jane Stewart who is stepping back from her role as the Kirk’s representative to the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian after five years in the role. The decision was made to trial the use of the common cup in the King David Aisle during Holy Communion on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Individual glasses will be used for the other aisles, as at present. Do please share any feedback that you have with an Elder as the matter will be revisited at our next meeting in June. In a further return to how things were pre-Covid, from May onwards a collection will be taken up during the service. The Kirk Session was also pleased to welcome the addition of three new members to the Congregational Roll.

## SUNDAY OFFERINGS

As indicated above, the Kirk Session has agreed to re-introduce our former practice of taking the collection DURING the morning service with effect from Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. We are conscious that nowadays many of the congregation give generously by direct means and should certainly not feel obliged to put something in the collection bag as it is passed along

the pew. The contactless machine will remain in place in the foyer but there will no longer be a collection plate beside it.

### **COMMON CUP AT COMMUNION**

The Kirk Session has also agreed that at our next celebration of Holy Communion on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May the common cup will be available in the King David Aisle for those who prefer to use it.

### **MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE**

Our next united service with St Giles' takes place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. A quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. It's worth noting that the 2023 Edinburgh Marathon will be taking place that day and as a result it might be difficult to get around the city centre.

### **CONCERT IN NEW YORK**

Our organist Simon Leach was invited to St Patrick's Cathedral, Fifth Avenue, NYC to give a livestreamed recital on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April as part of the Kilgen Organ Recital series. Watch his performance here <https://www.youtube.com/live/ID-CWzA8Je8?feature=share>

### **CONCERTS IN MAY AT CANONGATE KIRK**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 3pm Yehudi Menuhin School £10/£7.50 (*Tickets on door*)

Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> May 1pm Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland (*Free admission*)

More details on our website <https://www.canongatekirk.org.uk>

### **CRAFT CLUB**

The Club meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month, with the next regular meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 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!

### **CHRISTIAN AID BOOKSALE**

The annual book sale raising funds for Christian Aid will take place at St Andrew's and St George's West from Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Donations of books, antiques and collectables, pictures, stamps and postcards, sheet music and toys such as games and jigsaws can be handed in to St Andrew's and St George's West, 13 George Street from 9am – 8pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

### **ROYAL SCOTS ANNIVERSARY LUNCH**

There will be an informal lunchtime gathering at the Royal Scots Club, 29-31 Abercromby Street, Edinburgh EH3 6QE on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate 40 years on from the RS 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary held in 1983. It was at this point that Canongate Kirk was formally adopted as Regimental Kirk. For more information about attending and booking lunch contact [mfgibsonmail@gmail.com](mailto:mfgibsonmail@gmail.com)

### **OLD ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE**

Work has finally begun to convert the old Royal High School building, on Regent Road directly above Canongate Kirk, into the new National Centre for Music. The Royal High School Preservation Trust has signed a 125 year lease with the City of Edinburgh Council to create a new home for St Mary's Music School as well as rehearsal and performance spaces. More plans can be seen here <https://www.richardmurphyarchitects.com/New-National-Centre-for-Music>

## **ACCOMMODATION NEEDED**

The Minister of St Columba's, Pont Street, has asked us to include the following paragraph: 'Hannah Crawford, originally from Bathgate in West Lothian, is a young theatre producer based in London and a member of the congregation at St Columba's, Pont Street. She set up her own theatre production company called Thistle And Rose Arts in 2020 and this year she is presenting her first full programme of five Edinburgh Fringe shows. She has around 10 artists and creatives to find accommodation for from the last week of July to the end of August and, as we're all aware, it can get very expensive during the festival period! If any members of the Canongate Kirk congregation would be willing to host an artist for the month she can offer a small fee and arrange for hosts to meet with artists over Zoom for a quick chat in advance so no one's a stranger! If anyone would like to become a host, please contact Hannah by phone on 07594541334 or by email at [hannah@thistleandrosearts.co.uk](mailto:hannah@thistleandrosearts.co.uk)'

## **YOUNG ACTORS NEEDED**

Green Shoots Youth Theatre are looking for young actors aged between 12 and 17 years to perform in a project as part of the Edinburgh Fringe - five short plays based on Medieval Mystery plays. Writer Peter Holloway has reimagined the Mysteries for our time, with topics that concern us all: climate change, refugees' flight, war's ruin. The performance will be part of the 2023 Edinburgh Sacred Arts Festival programme and will take place in the Undercroft at St Vincent's Chapel, Stockbridge. Participation is completely free. For more information contact the director Faith Sutherland on [sutherlandf197@gmail.com](mailto:sutherlandf197@gmail.com)

## **TRUSSELL TRUST**

We continue to welcome donations for Edinburgh foodbanks supported by the Trussell Trust. Non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries can be brought to church any Sunday and left in the basket in the foyer.

## **STAMPS**

Don't forget that we also have an ongoing collection for used stamps. This year's Stamp Project aims to raise funds for The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL). NESSL employs more than a thousand people including their pastors. The economic crisis in the country and the consequences of the huge explosion in Beirut has struck hard and the Synod is struggling to pay salaries for pastors which range between £100 to £150 per month. The money raised from stamp collections will go towards supporting a pastor for a full year's salary.

## **TEA AND COFFEE AFTER CHURCH**

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. It's shown on a sheet on the Kirk foyer notice board, so please check there to see if there are any gaps. 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.

## **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.

## **OLD SAINT PAUL'S WEEKLY LUNCH**



OSP's is offering a free soup and rolls lunch every Monday from 12.30-2.30. The aim is to offer a warm, convivial space for anyone in the church and wider community who wants it, including people who might want a warm place to work or relax, so the hall will be open for a bit longer than the 12.30 - 2.30 lunch time.

## **VETERANS' LUNCH CLUB**

603 Sqn provides a Monthly Veterans Lunch Club at 603 Sqn HQ, 25 Learmonth Terrace, Edinburgh, EH4 1NZ. Please contact Sergeant Paul Greenwood for details on 07583 092701 or email [paul.greenwood195@mod.gov.uk](mailto:paul.greenwood195@mod.gov.uk) The aim is to provide veterans both young and old, ex-regular and ex-reserve with a warm welcoming place to meet once a month where they can have a simple lunch or just a tea/coffee.

## **EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM OF EDINBURGH**

*Local Foreigners – the Human Face of Immigration* is an exhibition at the Museum of Edinburgh (opposite Canongate Kirk) featuring photographs of people who have moved to Edinburgh from other countries and made the city their home. Each person has chosen a cherished object to display. The exhibition is an extension of *Local Foreigners*, a project by Maryna Sulym an immigrant from Ukraine. Until Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Admission free. For more information visit <https://localforeigners.org/>

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