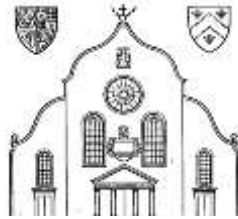


**CANONGATE KIRK  
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE  
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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

**Newsletter September 2025**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

No sooner had this year's Fringe got underway, and our own programme of fifteen or so concerts, than the City Council in its infinite wisdom instructed us immediately to remove all banners and posters from the church railings. Finger on the pulse or what?! The adverts detracted, apparently, from the historical interest of these particular railings, which are technically owned by the Council along with the gates and the rest of the Kirkyard. So we had no option but to comply and become possibly the only venue in Edinburgh this August where it looked on the outside as if nothing was happening. And I was persuaded to refrain from sharing with the Council my own personal reaction, which might just have been expressed in a way that reflected my military background rather than my ecclesiastical one...

Despite our variety of performers being unfairly prevented from properly advertising their concerts, I'm glad to report that most attracted good audiences and were pleased to be at Venue 60, as Canongate Kirk has always been known in the Fringe. Our Harry Younger Hall is better known as Venue 13. Described by The Scotsman as "this serene little venue", it has held the same venue number for 34 consecutive years, longer than any other Fringe location. Here too the theatre group that ran it - after a hiatus of a few years since the pandemic - are extremely positive about their experience this year and intend to return in 2026. They are thankfully self-contained, but the church concerts and events require to be stewarded by our own team of willing volunteers and co-ordinated by Imogen in the office, and I'm extremely grateful to them all for their support and flexibility.

Every summer the BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship service is broadcast live from Edinburgh one Sunday during the Festival, and this year we were pleased to host it on 10th August – you can still hear it on the BBC Sounds website until 10th September. The following Sunday we were glad to welcome Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh back to the Palace pew, before heading north to recover from a couple of hectic days filled to the brim with Festival, Fringe and Tattoo.

So it may look on the outside as if nothing's been happening at Canongate Kirk, but as August comes to an end once again I can assure you that's certainly not the case! I hope you've had a good and productive summer too, and look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks.

*Neil Gardner*

## PARISH REGISTER

### BAPTISM

17<sup>th</sup> August Alexander James Torrealba Turner  
*"Then he took them in his arms and blessed them."*

### WEDDING

2<sup>nd</sup> August Annabel Bowe & David Ambler in Dunbar  
*"Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide."*

### FUNERAL

6<sup>th</sup> August Jeannie Brown Moredunvale Bank  
27<sup>th</sup> August Etta Geekie Inchview Terrace  
*"Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."*

## PARISH GROUPING

### United Evening Services

The next monthly united evening service in conjunction with St Giles' takes place on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 7pm. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome. Please note the September service takes place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

### Edinburgh 900 Exhibition

Celebrating the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of both St Giles' Cathedral and Edinburgh, 'Edinburgh's First Burghers' at St Giles' brings together new research of medieval burials first excavated in 1981 to reveal the lives and hidden faces of Edinburgh's medieval citizens. The exhibition also features new lighting designs to project the facial reconstructions of five early *Edinburghers*, along with a short film featuring interviews with the project team and Cathedral staff, discussing the results and importance of the work to the heritage of the City and the Cathedral. Until 30<sup>th</sup> November. Opening hours: Mon - Fri : 10am - 6pm; Sat : 9am - 5pm; Sun : 1pm - 5pm. Admission is free.

## PALACE EXHIBITION – LAST CHANCE TO SEE!

*Royal Portraits – A Century of Photography* at the King's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse, charts the evolution of royal portrait photography from the 1920s to the present day, bringing together photographic prints, proofs and documents from the Royal Collection and the Royal Archives, including works from Cecil Beaton and Dorothy Wilding to Annie Leibovitz and Rankin. Open daily until 7<sup>th</sup> September <https://bit.ly/4gmsNZU>

## CRAFT CLUB NEWS

Next month's meeting of the Craft Club will be on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September from 6.30pm – 8pm in the Harry Younger Hall. New members are most welcome - the group is open to crafters and non-crafters, skilled and non-skilled alike.

## CONCERT

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir on tour from the USA will hold a concert at 6pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Admission Free.

## FOREIGN NOTES AND COINS

If you've been abroad on holiday this summer, you've probably come home with a few notes and coins that you can't use any more. We have recently discovered a company, Cash4coins, who will exchange these into Sterling for charities. This applies to old UK coins and notes too, so please consider bringing any you don't want to the Kirk, and we will add them to the 10kg

of foreign coins that have come in through Open Kirk donations, which we haven't been able to do anything with until now. Don't forget we still have a supply of collecting cans to take home and fill with loose change as time goes by. Every little helps!  
<https://www.cash4coins.co.uk/>

## STAMPS

Don't forget that we have had an ongoing collection for used stamps for many years. This year's Stamp Appeal proceeds go towards the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian project Firmly Planted, which aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries in Malawi.

## HISTORIC CHURCHES WALKING TRAIL

A new ecumenical walking trail featuring ten of the city's most historic and best loved churches has been launched by Scotland's three largest Christian denominations. The trail leads from the Royal Mile, including St Giles' and Canongate Kirk, continues through the New Town and finishes at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in the West End. Read more about it at <http://bit.ly/4ofmHj1> or pick up one of the leaflets available in all the featured churches.

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Scottish Charity SC 015251			

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