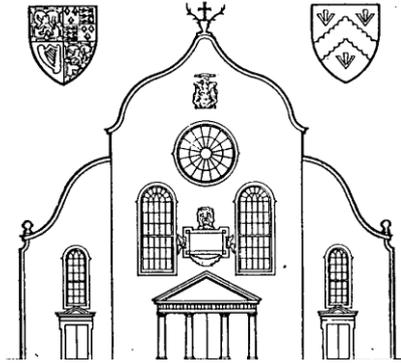


CANONGATE KIRK THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE & EDINBURGH CASTLE

Newsletter
September 2019



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

1st September	10:	Family Service, with Baptism
<i>Trinity 11</i>	11.15	Parish Worship
8th	10:	Family Service
<i>Trinity 12</i>	11.15	Parish Worship
	4:	Croft an Righ
15th	10:	Family Service
<i>Battle of Britain</i>	11.15	Parish Worship
22nd	10:	Family Service
<i>Trinity 14</i>	11.15	Parish Worship
29th	10:	Family Service
<i>Trinity 15</i>	11.15	Parish Worship, with Holy Communion
6th October*	10:	Family Service
<i>Trinity 16</i>	11.15	Parish Worship

*Open Streets/Closed Streets

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

11th August Eléonore Elizabeth Isla Leroux

25th August Jamie Aleksei Archibald Hardie

“Then he took them in his arms and blessed them.”

Funerals & Memorial Services

2nd August Sarah Struthers Broughton Place

9th August Joy Alstead Moray Place

12th August Margaret Barr Hawick

17th August Auriole Fergusson at Barr, South Ayrshire

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

MINISTER’S LETTER

When I first came to Canongate Kirk, in June 2006, I got quite impatient with those Edinburgh residents who expressed their frustration at life in the city every August, and I insisted that the Festival is an exciting, inspiring and wonderful time for those who live here as well as for those who visit. Now after 13 years living and working on the Royal Mile, I’m beginning to see their point! And yet in the midst of all the culture and chaos I’ve been touched this year by unexpectedly gentle moments - the lone Black Watch piper playing *‘Soldier lie down on a wee pickle straw’* high on the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle towards the close of the Tattoo, some surprisingly subtle fireworks during the final concert, three grand pianos standing side by side late at night in our deserted Kirk when darkness and silence had fallen after a Fringe performance.

I suppose it’s what the hymn-writer meant by the “still small voice of calm” speaking through the earthquake, wind and fire in “Dear Lord and Father of mankind”, his famous and favourite hymn referencing the experience of Elijah as he stood at the entrance to the cave and wondered where to go next. As normality – or something like it – returns to our city-centre, it’s worth looking and listening out for those unexpectedly gentle moments that resemble the still, small voice of calm and reassure us that God has been here in the midst of us, all along.

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS

We send love and congratulations to Margaret Fasson, our oldest member and Alastair Bowe’s mother, who celebrated her 100th birthday on 29th August!

SUMMER FAYRE

Ironically the weather on Saturday 27th July was anything but fair, but despite the torrential downpours and flooding of the courtyard, over £1500 was raised for church funds. Many thanks to the social committee for their organisation, and to everyone who contributed in any way to this great success against all the odds.

SESSION CLERK'S UPDATE

1. Coming to the end of the Building Refurbishment Programme:

The road has been a long one that has required tolerance, patience and commitment from you all but at last the building repairs are almost complete and the scaffolding has gone. Once again we have a weatherproof building, with bright repainted external walls, rones, downpipes and imposing refreshed heraldic Coats of Arms above the entrance to the Kirk. The Kirkyard will again be open to everyone whose attendance at the Kirk is determined by having car access. All of this has been achieved through the immense efforts of all of our members and so many others from our wider Canongate family. For all of that the Kirk Session wishes once again to express its gratitude to you all.

For your general information you will wish to note the Project's financial position as we come towards its conclusion:

Building Repair Costs:

1. The original Contract Valuation was £212,492, excluding VAT that we are able to reclaim via the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. The scheme provides grants that cover the VAT incurred in making repairs to the fabric of listed buildings in use as places of worship, along with VAT relating to associated professional fees.
2. We have so far paid £185,764 of the original Contract Valuation and anticipate further payments totalling £17,000 and then a further £9,730 retention payment 12 months after the end of the project.
3. The original estimated cost of professional fees, which are in addition to the Contract Valuation, was 10% of the Contract Valuation i.e. £21,249 and we have so far paid £20,471.
4. The total cost of the project therefore remains on target at £212,492 (contract) + £21,249 (fees), a total of £233,741.

Income from Appeal:

The response to the Appeal was overwhelming and far exceeded the Kirk Session's expectations. So many people have been generous not only with their donations but also with their efforts and talents in raising funds through a variety of means including Concerts, Garden Party, Summer Fayre, Sponsored Walk/Run, lunches and other activities. To date a total of £130,551.30 has been donated with a further £13,000 accrued so far from related Gift Aid claims. Added to this we successfully applied to Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for a grant which totalled £100,000. The total raised so far therefore is £243,551.30 with some further modest Gift Aid income still to be recovered. This has provided a surplus of income to date of £9,810 and has allowed us to consider further work not included in the original Contract Valuations. To this end we spent £5,200 on painting the Coats of Arms and have commissioned some additional unscheduled work around the outside of the Boiler Room and the Minister's vestry where the presence of existing contractor

facilities will allow some routine maintenance work to be done earlier than we would have otherwise planned.

Taking account of all that has been achieved and paid for almost exclusively through the efforts of you all, **you will be relieved to know the Appeal has now been closed - thank you!**

2. Donating Food for Homeless People:

We have for some time now been receiving food donations from members and passing them on to Streetwork, an organisation based in Holyrood Road that supports people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. We are looking for a volunteer from within the congregation who would be happy to gather in these food donations and deliver them to Streetwork. The task is not an onerous one and assistance from within the Kirk Session would be available if necessary. We would wish to stress that only food can now be accepted for passing on.

3. Kirk Annual Review Publication:

Members will be aware that every April we publish an Annual Review which contains a letter from the Minister, a summary of the work of the Kirk Session over the year and comparable statistics on a variety of aspects of the Kirk's business. We also include items which we hope will be of general interest to our members. With the support of Mark Peel and James Anderson (formatting), the Session Clerk has up until now sought and coordinated the various articles for inclusion in the Review but feels now that for the contents of the Review to remain vibrant and relevant, someone else should be invited to take over the coordinator role. Anyone from within the congregation who would be interested in taking over the task for the coming year is invited to speak with either the Minister or the Session Clerk.

4. Open Doors 28th – 29th September 2019:

The Kirk is once again participating in Doors Open Day which this year takes place on the last weekend of September. The church will be open from 10.30am – 4.30pm on Saturday 28th and 1.30pm – 4.30pm on Sunday 29th. Doors Open Day is the public's chance to explore some of Edinburgh's architectural and culturally significant buildings - all for free. The theme for this year's event is a celebration of our region's global connections. To participate fully the Kirk requires volunteers from within the congregation to add their names to the list which is posted beside the Open Kirk volunteers' board.

OPEN KIRK

The volunteers' board is still up in the foyer - please check your diary and add your name where you can, or speak to Lesley Wallace for more information. Although the Festival is over there are still many visitors and tourists on the Royal Mile, and

now that the scaffolding is down there is a better chance of being able to welcome them to the Kirk. Please help if you can in the final month of Open Kirk this year.

SOUP LUNCH

After a break for the summer, the next Soup Lunch will be held on Tuesday 3rd September in the Harry Younger Hall at 12 noon. There is always a choice of two home-made soups, crusty bread and butter, tea, coffee and biscuits. Also included in the small charge of £2 is a game of bingo and a quiz. All welcome.

SEPTEMBER BIBLE STUDY

We are using a different approach which is based on an imaginative and creative way of thinking about what God says to us in the Bible called 'Godly Play.' There will be a series of four stories, The Great Family, (the story of Sarah and Abraham), The Exodus, The Ten Best Ways and The Exile & Return, all told using sand and wooden figures. It is an opportunity to try something new and all are very welcome. We meet on Wednesday mornings from 11am to 12 noon in the Harry Younger Hall, with tea and coffee available from 10.30am. Limited parking should be available in the Manse courtyard.

FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

The Autumn sessions of the Fellowship Gathering will resume on Thursday 26th September in the Harry Younger Hall at 7pm and continues to explore the theme from Ecclesiastes 3 *'to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.'* This next session will be an introductory discussion about the role and nature of prayer in our lives and in our Church, facilitated by Katherine Taylor.

ROYAL MILE PRIMARY

Our local primary school, are planning a Health and Wellbeing morning exploring crafts and creativity on 1st November and we have been invited to help. If you would be interested in taking part, please could you let the office or Katherine Taylor know. All suggestions are welcome!

EDINBURGH KILT WALK

There is still time to register for the Kilt Walk on 15th September which has three different walks of varying lengths from fairly easy to those wanting more of a challenge! The money you raise goes straight to the Bethany Christian Trust to help end homelessness in Scotland. You can sign up at www.thekiltwalk.co.uk

RIDING OF THE MARCHES

This year's event will take place on Sunday 15th September with riders starting up the Royal Mile at approximately 3.40pm and finishing at the Mercat Cross. This is a spectacular sight and well worth watching if you can.

VOLUNTEER FAIR

Volunteer Edinburgh's annual recruitment fair takes place from 11am to 7pm on Wednesday 18th September at St Paul's and St George's Church on York Place. Organisations looking for volunteers will be represented and experienced advisors are available to help search hundreds of volunteering opportunities throughout the city. Entry is free.

MESSAGE FROM FRESHSTART

Biddy Kelly, MD of Freshstart, writes ; *'Thank you for all your support in the last year helping us deliver vital goods and services to over 1,700 people from April 2018 to March 2019. During this period, Freshstart has delivered 10,410 starter packs, fitted 106 households with new white goods, provided 208 households with cooking appliances and given 88 service users cooking classes. I do not underestimate the effort, commitment and energy this takes and for that everyone at Freshstart thanks you wholeheartedly.'*

'OPEN STREETS' AND 'SUMMERTIME STREETS'

The road restrictions in place during 'Summertime Streets' end on 1st September and the Number 35 bus service will resume its usual route on 2nd September. Open Streets, where the Royal Mile is closed to traffic on the first Sunday of every month, will not operate in September but will resume on Sunday 6th October.

QUEEN'S GALLERY, HOLYROODHOUSE

The latest exhibition, *Russian, Royalty and the Romanovs*, tells the story of the familial, political, diplomatic and artistic associations between Britain and Russia and their royal families through portraits, sculpture, photographs and archival documents including miniature masterpieces by Fabergé. Open daily. You might also like to be aware that the wedding outfits of TRH The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are currently on display at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

DUTY ELDERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Anne Baker	Rie Stevenson	Mark Peel
Anne Croft	Martin Baker	Gavin Brydone
Kate Church	Etta Geekie	Dinah Croy
Alexis Moyer		

DUTY ELDERS FOR OCTOBER

Donald Davidson	Rosemary Bowe	Stuart Ramsay
Christina Coltart	Alastair Bowe	Lesley Wallace
Mary Craig	Helen Aitken	Roddy Gow
Rita Buchan		

Minister	The Revd Neil Gardner nng22@btinternet.com	0131 556 3515
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Assistant Minister	Katherine Taylor KTaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk	07748445998
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Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	0131 556 3515
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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am – 1pm, Friday 8am – 12 noon

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Scottish Charity SC 015251