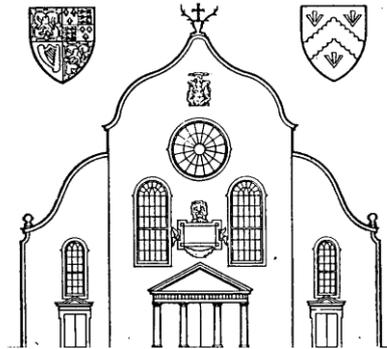


# CANONGATE KIRK THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE & EDINBURGH CASTLE

## Newsletter

December 2019 – January 2020



### FORTHCOMING SERVICES

1 <sup>st</sup> December *	10:	Family Service
<i>Advent Sunday</i>	11.15:	Parish Worship
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.45:	Family Service
<i>Advent 2</i>	11.15	Parish Worship
	4:	Croft an Righ
15 <sup>th</sup>	10:	Family Service
<i>Advent 3</i>	11.15:	Parish Worship, with the Moderator
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:	Family Service
<i>Advent 4</i>	11.15:	Lessons and Carols for Christmas
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Christmas Day	11am	Family Service
29 <sup>th</sup>	10:	Family Service
<i>Christmas 1</i>	11.15	Parish Worship & Holy Communion
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	10:	Family Service
<i>Christmas 2</i>	11.15	Parish Worship
(*Open Streets/Closed Streets)		

## PARISH REGISTER

### Weddings

16<sup>th</sup> November Poppy Williams & John Hines

23<sup>rd</sup> November Deborah Scott & Benjamin Tambling

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

### Funerals

14<sup>th</sup> November Louisa Pairman Drumbrae Care Home

15<sup>th</sup> November Doreen Cross Dundee

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

## MINISTER’S LETTER

Advent is always a season of waiting and wondering but never more so than this year as we wait for the General Election and wonder what on earth is going to happen next; as we wait to see who will be our next Prime Minister and wonder what implications their election will have for Scotland, for the United Kingdom, for Europe and for the wider world. I can’t help reflecting that Jesus was born into turbulent and uncertain times too, that those who waited for him and wondered about his coming were caught in a crossfire of political intrigue and jealousy and jostling for position in the occupied territories of the Holy Land, and that his birth and life would have far-reaching implications for the whole world.

Here in Canongate we have our own ministerial reshuffle, with Katherine Taylor’s probationary period of fifteen months now at an end. On 24th November we presented Katherine with a gift card and flowers, and she leaves with our sincere thanks for all that she has been and done among us. On 8<sup>th</sup> December we welcome Rev Breda Ludik, from South Africa, to the team. Breda is a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church, who is coming on a familiarisation programme with a view to ministry in the Church of Scotland and we look forward to welcoming him and his wife, Francé, to Canongate Kirk. Indeed, I look forward to welcoming as many of you as are able to come to our Christmas services and wish all the Canongate family, when the time comes, a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

## SOUP LUNCH

December’s Soup Lunch will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Expect some seasonal surprises as well! All welcome.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

Plans are going well for the Christmas Supper in the Harry Younger Hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December. The Social Committee would welcome donations of desserts to be brought to the hall on the evening of the supper. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets costing £13 each are still available from John Fanning or Etta Geekie. They sell out fast so hurry to get yours!

## **VISIT FROM THE MODERATOR**

We look forward to welcoming the Right Reverend Colin Sinclair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, as our guest preacher at 11.15am on Sunday 15th December 2019. Please come along to hear him if you can.

## **ADVENT OPEN DOORS**

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 11am to 4pm, Canongate Kirk will again be participating in the 24 Doors of Advent programme, where a different building opens its doors every day from 1<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December. Please contact Lesley Wallace if you would like to volunteer to help welcome visitors. For more information visit [www.edinburghschristmas.com/whats-on/24-doors-of-advent18](http://www.edinburghschristmas.com/whats-on/24-doors-of-advent18)

## **CHRISTMAS APPEAL: BODY AND SOUL?**

This year the Kirk Session has decided that our Christmas Appeal – supported by retiring offerings at our Christmas services – will be in aid of two charities: Médecins Sans Frontières, the humanitarian medical organisation best known for its projects in conflict zones and currently providing medical aid in over seventy countries; and Barnabas Fund, which provides aid and hope to Christian victims of persecution around the world. The Appeal can be supported at church from 22<sup>nd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> December, but if you are to be away over Christmas donations can be sent to the office at any time. This year we have been asked once again to support Crisis at Christmas with wash bags for the homeless. Filled washbags marked M or F can be handed in at church up to and including Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, and can include toothbrush, toothpaste, roll-on deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, moisturiser, face wash (please note NO glass, aerosols or razor blades.)

## **TEA AND COFFEE VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQUIRED**

Our appeal for new helpers in last month's newsletter fell on deaf ears but we really need new team members to maintain our reputation for a warm welcome and generous hospitality after 11.15am services. The commitment involves preparing the refreshments table before the 11.15 service, serving teas and coffees and clearing up afterwards. The task is normally completed by 12.45pm. A small contribution of either sandwiches, biscuits or cakes would be welcome but not absolutely necessary. Anyone willing to consider helping should please have a word with either Dinah Croy or the Minister. It really is essential that we get some new helpers to keep this hospitality going – please play your part if you can.

## **CONGREGATIONAL CHOIR**

Don't forget the weekly rehearsal at 10.30am, culminating on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **BETHANY CARING CHRISTMAS TREES**

Why not help end homelessness in Scotland by purchasing a Caring Christmas Tree from Bethany Christian Trust? Trees cost from £35 and can be ordered from [www.caringchristmastrees.com](http://www.caringchristmastrees.com) or call T: 0345 111 8733.

## CONCERTS IN DECEMBER

December concerts at Canongate Kirk begin with the Edinburgh University A Capella Society on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. Tickets £3 on the door. On Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm Open Orchestra performs David Crisp's *First of May* for trombone and orchestra followed by Beethoven's *Symphony No 3 in E flat major op. 55 (Eroica)*. Free entry with a retiring collection. On Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm St Andrew Camerata performs its Christmas concert *Follow the Star*, directed by Vincent Wallace. Tickets £12/£8 on the door or available in advance from [www.usherhall.co.uk](http://www.usherhall.co.uk) T: 0131 228 1155.

## KIRK ANNUAL REVIEW PHOTO COMPETITION

We have been fortunate in recent copies of the Kirk's Annual Review brochure to have outstanding front cover photographs. We thought that this year we would have a competition for those who might wish to submit a suitable photograph for consideration. All submissions should be passed to David Croft.

## QUEEN'S GALLERY, HOLYROODHOUSE

*Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing* marks the 500th anniversary of the death of the Renaissance master by bringing together 80 of his greatest drawings in the Royal Collection, forming the largest group of Leonardo's work ever shown in Scotland.

## DUTY ELDERS FOR DECEMBER

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

## DUTY ELDERS FOR JANUARY 2020

Stuart McFarlane	Fiona Grant	Polly Burns
Robert Watson	Colin Stewart	Jacky McFarlane
Rachel Wright	Jane Stewart	Daniel McKinney

Minister	The Revd Neil Gardner <a href="mailto:nng22@btinternet.com">nng22@btinternet.com</a>	0131 556 3515
Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	0131 556 3515
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