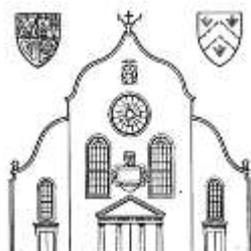


CANONGATE KIRK THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE & EDINBURGH CASTLE

Newsletter June 2020



MINISTER'S LETTER

This is not the first time that services in Canongate Kirk have been suspended. That was in 1745 when the Jacobites were in town! Bonnie Prince Charlie held court at the Palace of Holyroodhouse and in spite of a written promise that all were free to worship as they liked, all services were suspended for six weeks. Our church was requisitioned for housing some of the prisoners captured from General Sir John Cope's army in the Battle of Prestonpans, since the Tolbooth next door was considered inadequate for the purpose. But then the Jacobite forces continued south on the march, the prisoners were released and life on the Canongate returned to normal. Alas after considerably more than six weeks now, there's not much sign of such a thing happening any time soon. It looks like it will be a good while yet before services of public worship can be held again, and even then we will have to comply with strict guidelines on social distancing and hand sanitising and all the other things that have lately become part of our daily lives. In the meantime, the newsletter and website remain important means of communication, and I will use them to keep you informed of developments as best I can. Please keep an eye on them if you can.

Of course we not only miss worship but the fellowship that follows. One of our members, Elise Ramsay, is keen to address that by arranging a weekly coffee time via Zoom, the online platform that for some of us has also unexpectedly become part of our daily lives in recent weeks! This will begin at 2pm on Sunday 7th June and if you would to join in, please let the office know by emailing canongatekirk@btinternet.com and Elise will send you a link to the gathering, along with any other details you might require. It's very straightforward and could be fun. It would be nice to see you!

*Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love.*

As we enter the season of Pentecost we are reminded how God sent his Holy Spirit to sustain and inspire the early Church soon after the Ascension of Jesus, who had promised his followers that they would not be left comfortless. The promise still stands. And that modern version of an old hymn reminds us that by God's grace, and the power of that same Holy Spirit binding us together in faith and hope and love, it is made good again and again at Pentecost.

PARISH REGISTER

Unfortunately, one wedding due to be held in St Margaret's Chapel, Edinburgh Castle, in May had to be postponed due to the restrictions, but we look forward to rescheduled celebrations in due course. We extend our sympathy to the families of those whose funerals have been held in line with the restrictions in recent weeks: Catherine Monaghan had a long-standing connection with the parish; Cyril Deas was a veteran of the Royal Navy with a wartime record that included serving on Russian convoys and sinking the Bismarck; and Rona Fanning was very much part of the family of our congregation, and we assure John and the family of our love and prayers at this difficult time.

Funerals

11 th May	Catherine Monaghan	Restalrig
27 th May	Cyril Deas	Juniper Green
28 th May	Rona Fanning	Croft an Righ

"Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

CRISIS COVER

Please remember to let the office know if you – or someone you know – could do with some help getting food or medicines, or would just appreciate a phone call to chat with somebody different?!

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Rev Breda Ludik continues our own on-line Bible Study series with new studies of the Psalms. <https://www.canongatekirk.org.uk/congregation/bible-study-2/>

PENTECOST SERVICE LED BY THE MODERATOR

A special on-line service for Pentecost led by the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Reverend Dr Martin Fair, will be available to view at 10am on Sunday 31st May on the Church of Scotland website at <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/> The website is also a useful source of news and information in general.

ONLINE WORSHIP

Modern technology allows us to share in acts of worship with different churches across the country and around the world. More locally on Sunday 7th June, Trinity Sunday, the Minister will be sharing in the online worship provided by Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church, where he is still serving as the Interim Moderator. This can be accessed on-line using the link <https://mayfieldsalisbury.org/index.php/extensions/weekly-sunday-reflections>

OFFERINGS

Some members have been asking 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 and we'll pass them on. Meanwhile if you usually give via weekly envelopes, please save them up at home and we'll get them eventually!

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Canongate Kirk Annual Review 2019/2020 was posted out to our members in and around Edinburgh before Easter. If for any reason you have not received a copy and would like one, please let the office know.

LIFE AND WORK

Lockdown Weekly is a free weekly update which is a useful resource to help people keep in touch with events in the Church of Scotland while churches are shut and many of us are in isolation. Free every Friday to download from the Life and Work website at <https://www.lifeandwork.org/> Life and Work magazine will continue to be published as normal and distributed to readers who have a subscription. If you need to contact the team please email editorial enquiries to magazine@lifeandwork.org or all other enquiries to admin@lifeandwork.org

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Normally based up the road in Cranston Street, EOTDT is a local community charity. If you are looking for some more reading material whilst at home, why not check out their publications produced as part of its Word Bank community publishing projects? They include: The Care & Conservation of Shared Georgian Gardens (by John Byrom), Scotland's Homes Fit for Heroes (by Lou Rosenberg) and of course the four editions of the Evergreen: A New Season in the North with mixed editorial pieces, fiction, non-fiction, poetry and illustrations. They can post copies to you via Royal Mail and all purchases go towards the upkeep and activities of EOTDT which is still active and functioning on-line. More details are at: <http://www.eotdt.org/index.php/the-word-bank/books-and-prints>

VISIT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND VIRTUALLY!

The National Library of Scotland based on George IV Bridge in Edinburgh's Old Town has a vast collection of electronic resources (eResources) which are available free to everyone with a residential address in Scotland. They can be accessed from home, simply by registering to become a reader – a simple two minute online process just click here <https://auth.nls.uk/join/> Their eResources cover every topic and period so there's plenty to look at. In addition to the eResources, they are also doing a range of things online for a wide range of audiences to support learning and enjoyment – live talks, workshops, and online content. For more information about their eResources, click here - <https://auth.nls.uk/eresources/> If you need to contact them the best way is by email enquiries@nls.uk

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Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	canongatekirk@btinternet.com	
<i>The office is currently closed but Imogen continues to work from home: Mon, Wed 9am – 1pm, Fri 8am – 12 noon</i>			
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