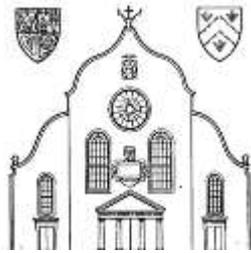


CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE
www.canongatekirk.org.uk
Newsletter September 2020



MINISTER'S LETTER

As advertised in last month's newsletter, I was recently asked to supply the BBC Radio 4 Prayer for the Day for a week, from 15th to 21st August. It's not the first time I've done it, and it always confirms my sense of following indirectly in the footsteps of the Radio Padre! Though this time was a bit different. It was still mercifully pre-recorded well in advance so I didn't have to be up and about broadcasting to the nation "live" at 5-43am! But whereas in previous years I've popped across the road to the BBC Studio just round the corner from the Scottish Parliament, this time thanks to the current restrictions it was out of bounds to the likes of me. So I had to record each short broadcast on my iPhone in a quiet corner of the Manse, with a duvet over my head to deaden the acoustic! And you thought show business was glamorous?! The broadcasts are available on the BBC Sounds website until mid September.

Quick-witted if unkind friends used to tell me I had a good face for radio, and this time it's probably just as well it wasn't video! But we are now successfully livestreaming a video of our regular Sunday service – viewable on our website www.canongatekirk.org.uk "live" at 10am and available thereafter until the following Sunday. Do please send a link to family and friends elsewhere – we already know that we regularly have viewers in London and New York. But if you're here in Edinburgh, do please consider coming along some Sunday morning. It's not quite how it used to be, what with face coverings, no hymn singing, and safe distancing, but those who have been coming have been glad to be back in the building and there is undoubtedly something special about gathering once again within our ancient walls. To help manage numbers and for track and trace purposes, we need to know who is intending to come on any given Sunday – to that end a weekly e mail is sent out to those members of the congregation for whom we have up to date contact details: if you do not - or cannot - receive such an e mail, but would like to attend, please let the office know one way or another.

When so much else seems different and rather out of kilter at the moment, returning to the sanctuary of Canongate Kirk either in person or online reminds and reassures us that the eternal God is still our dwelling-place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. Take care.

PARISH REGISTER

The news of Mary Corsar's death after a short illness was met with great sadness by the family of our congregation, of which Mary has been a stalwart member for many years. A memorial service will be held in due course to reflect Mary's many interests and achievements in her long and distinguished life, and in the meantime we assure her own immediate family of our thoughts and prayers.

Funeral

14th August

Dame Mary Corsar

South Oswald Road

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

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

We will start a new Bible study series on the book of Exodus on Wednesday 2nd September, running weekly until Wednesday 7th October. The introduction to the series is already on the website at <https://www.canongatekirk.org.uk/congregation/bible-study-2/> Again led by Rev Breda Ludik, the week's study will be posted on the website on Mondays with participation in group study either by email or our Zoom group. Anyone interested in participating in either format is welcome to contact Breda and he will add you to the mailing list for further instructions. If you'd like to be added to the list, or find out more details, please get in touch with Rev Breda Ludik on ludik.breda@gmail.com

OFFERINGS

A number of members have asked 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. Donations can also be given via our website. Meanwhile if you usually give via weekly envelopes, please save them up at home and we'll get them eventually!

SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST BABIES

The charity Saying Goodbye, part of the Mariposa Trust, is organising two special services for those who have lost babies in any stage of pregnancy, at birth or infancy. These will take place on Saturday 12th September in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh. The services are back to back and run from 2pm - 2.30pm and 2.45pm - 3.15pm. Places are free but should be booked online via <https://www.sayinggoodbye.org/sgscot20-booking-page/> to guarantee a space, as services are strictly 40 maximum per service. For more information about the charities please visit www.mariposatrust.org and www.sayinggoodbye.org

FRESHSTART

Freshstart, the charity which helps formerly homeless people get established in their new home, are currently NOT taking donations of any sort as they have had such a huge response. Keep an eye on their website which is regularly updated to find out when they will be accepting donations of food/household goods in the future. You can still donate money at any time on their website <https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/donate>

'OPEN DOORS' WEEKEND

The Cockburn Association's annual Doors Open weekend, where buildings all over the city are usually open to the public, will go ahead on-line from Saturday 26th to Sunday 27th September. Canongate Kirk's contribution will be a link to the themed Kirkyard podcasts,

recorded some years ago. You can listen to the podcasts, narrated by amongst others Alexander McCall Smith and Rev Neil Gardner, anytime on our website. More information about the Cockburn Association's 'digital festival' will be found in due course on <http://www.cockburnassociation.org.uk/edinburgh-doors-open-day/>

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Office Opening Hours: Mon, Wed 9am – 1pm, Fri 8am – 12 noon.

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Scottish Charity SC 015251