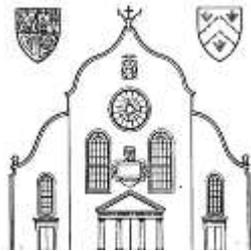


CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE
www.canongatekirk.org.uk
Newsletter December 2020



MINISTER'S LETTER

Rev Breda Ludik writes:

It is hard to believe that my time in Canongate Kirk is almost at an end. A full calendar year has now elapsed since my and Francé's arrival in Edinburgh. We will now be leaving in answer to a call to St Andrew's Lhanbryd and Urquhart Parish Church 3 miles outside of Elgin. I will be inducted (unfortunately by livestreaming or Zoom) on 17 December and will be able to lead the Christmas celebrations in the congregation, such as we will be able to do. We are both looking forward to settling in Moray, though we are also sad to leave Edinburgh and, especially, Canongate Kirk. The parish is situated midway between the two areas where my Scottish family on my mother's side come from – the Black Isle and Banff. This would allow me to explore the places they called home and, who knows, maybe meet some distant relatives.

We have been blessed here in Canongate Kirk in so many ways, though we feel cheated by the Coronavirus eating up almost nine months of our stay. We missed out on so much of what Edinburgh has to offer and, saddest of all, on what we had looked forward to here in Canongate Kirk. Yet we are also grateful for what we have been able to observe and experience as part of this very special congregation while sharing this time of great crisis. We have been touched by the way the church members stood together, assisting and encouraging one another and keeping as much congregational life as possible going. We salute the leadership for their positive role throughout and find comfort in knowing that God has provided for the Kirk locally and wider to be sustained in continuing as a Christian presence in Scottish society post Covid. Most of all we have been blessed by getting to know many wonderful people in the church and will always remember this year for the rich texture of faith and community life in this gathering of God's beloved children in the heart of Edinburgh.

We will circulate the online details of Breda's induction when they are available and in the meantime we all wish him and Francé every blessing as they embark on this new exciting chapter of ministry in the Church of Scotland.

NNG

PARISH REGISTER

Weddings

14 th November	Gemma Hogg & Christopher McCorkell	<i>St Andrews University Chapel</i>
21 st November	Alice Brodie & Callum Duncan	<i>St Giles' Cathedral</i>

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

Funerals

3 rd November	Millie Tupman	Viewpark Care Home
24 th November	David Dunn	Craigs Park

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

10.30AM START TIME

With effect from Sunday 6th December, and for the next three winter months, our restricted service will begin at 10.30am every Sunday. It will still last approximately half an hour and be available online.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

It is now possible to listen to the weekly service from Canongate Kirk on an ordinary landline telephone, without any need for a computer! Simply dial 0131 546 4001 any time from Monday lunchtime onwards to hear the previous Sunday's service. Calls are charged at your phone provider's usual local rate. Please let anyone know of this who might appreciate the connection as Christmas draws near.

CHRISTMAS 2020

It will come as no surprise that our Christmas services cannot follow the usual pattern this year. The Kirk Session has agreed that there will be no Watchnight Service on Christmas Eve or Family Service on Christmas Day - numbers would be subject to the current limitations and Christmas congregations are less likely to "book in" which would mean having to turn people away late at night and in the morning. If you know of families who usually come to these services, please let them know. Instead short seasonal reflections will be uploaded to our website on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and there will also be a televised service from St Giles' Cathedral on Christmas Day. An extra evening service will be held in our church on Wednesday 23rd December – it will incorporate the same readings and Christmas music as the morning service on Sunday 20th December, so please register in the usual way for one or the other but not both so that more people can physically attend a church service prior to Christmas. Due to the guidelines on handling cash, we are unable to make our usual Christmas appeal this year either – there are several charities for which we usually hold fund-raising carol services or offer ongoing support and you might like to consider giving directly to any of them:

Freshstart <https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/donate>

Crisis <https://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/donate-to-crisis-this-christmas/>

The Army Benevolent Fund <https://soldierscharity.org/donate/make-donation/>

Combat Stress <https://www.combatstress.org.uk/donate>

WASHBAGS

We have been asked once again to collect washbags for Crisis, whose local team will distribute them to homeless people over the Christmas period. A mix of male and female washbags would be ideal with any selection of toiletries, **but no razors, aerosols or hand sanitisers which contain alcohol**. A suggested list of items includes: shower-gel, soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving foam, flannel and anything else you would usually

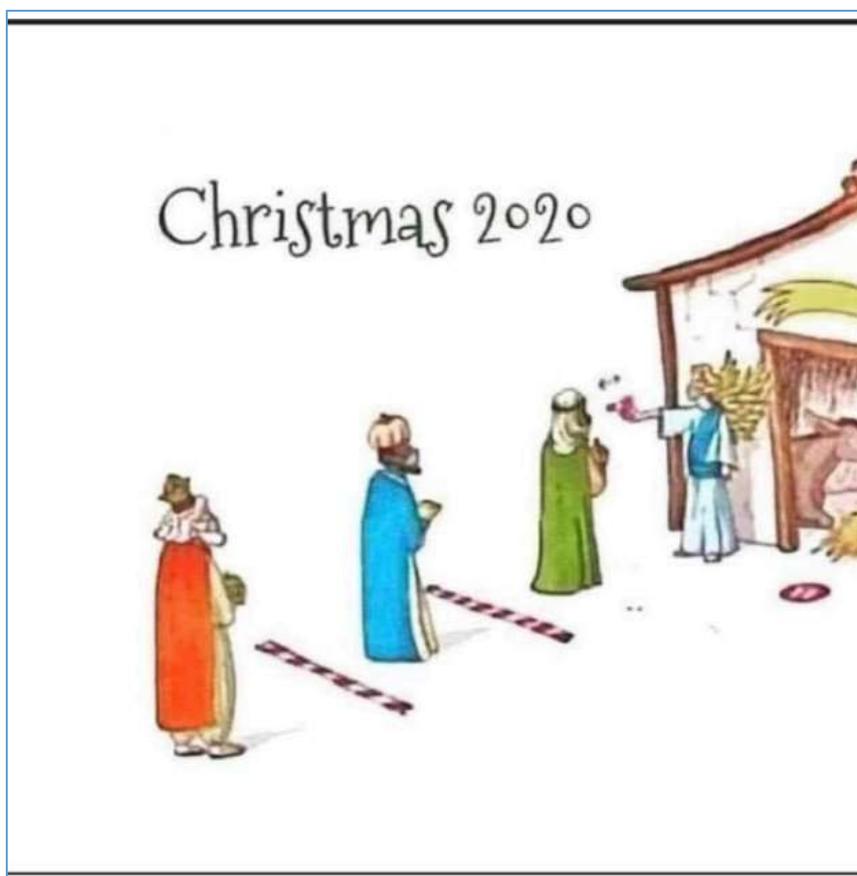
find in a washbag. Next Sunday, 6th December, is the deadline for delivery to the church and Wednesday 9th December to the office.

‘SCOTTISH PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP’

This new book by Bryan Spinks, one of the world’s most distinguished liturgical scholars, fills an important gap in the history of the Church of Scotland and of Scottish worship. It offers an in-depth narrative of a neglected liturgical legacy and a perceptive analysis of the Church’s evolving patterns of worship from the middle of the 19th Century to the present day, and makes several references to Canongate Kirk along the way. £25 from good bookshops.

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!



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Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	canongatekirk@btinternet.com	0131 556 3515

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

Website: www.canongatekirk.org.uk  @CanongateKirk  @canongate.kirk
Scottish Charity SC 015251