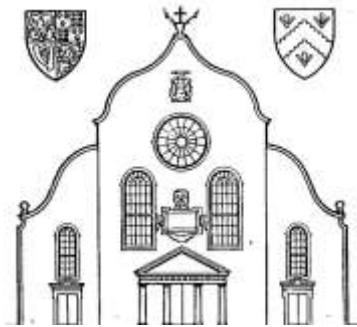


CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE
www.canongatekirk.org.uk
Newsletter August 2021



MINISTER'S LETTER

If these letters were given to headlines, this month's would surely read CONGREGATION SINGS HYMNS! Whoever would have thought that such a thing would ever merit a mention at all, but in this strange new world it was really quite something for our service on Sunday 25th July to open with "All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice..." and to close with "Great is Thy faithfulness." These were the first hymns we've sung in more than a month of Sundays - since 15th March 2020 to be precise – and the first that our organist Simon has been able to accompany since he first joined us in April 2020. Given that face-coverings are still required to be worn, the singing was a lot better than I expected!

Hymns have been an important part of the Christian tradition of worship since the days of St Ambrose in the fourth century and part of the Scottish tradition since Calvin imported metrical psalms from Geneva in the sixteenth. No wonder we missed them so much. All being well we shall continue gently to reintroduce hymns to our Sunday service and they shall resume their normal place in our worship without generating further headlines. The other news in terms of easing of restrictions is that the distancing requirement has dropped from 2 metres to 1 metre – this increases our safe capacity to 105, so please don't feel you should stay at home to allow someone else to attend, there's room for everyone again. We still need to compile a list in advance for track and trace purposes, so we shall continue to send out an e-mail on a Monday morning in anticipation of the following Sunday – if you don't get that e-mail and would like to, please let us know. And if you don't use e-mail just call the office and tell us when you'd like to come. Live streaming will also continue in the meantime but we hope to see you soon.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the Amen sound from God's people again: gladly for ever adore him.

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

24th July Lochaidh James Campbell Blair *at Arthur Lodge*
“Then he took them in his arms and blessed them.”

Weddings

3rd July Elly Pugh & Geordie Ogilvie
3rd July Stephen Knott & Alastair Bruce *at St John’s*
22nd July Gabriela Paliszewska & Rupert Lumsden
“Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide.”

Funerals

2nd July Jimmy Menzies Lygon Road
15th July Joan Kirk Mid Gogarloch Syke
19th July Chrissie Brown Hyndford’s Close
“Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

PASTORAL VISITS

Now that restrictions are gradually easing, pastoral visits to people’s homes – though not yet nursing homes or hospitals – can be reintroduced. Both our ministers have had both their jobs and are happy to visit by arrangement. If you would like a visit or know someone who would, please get in touch with the office.

OPEN KIRK

The Kirk Session has agreed that we will eventually resume Open Kirk on a trial, restricted basis, beginning with Sundays following on from the morning service. Visitors will be required to leave their name and telephone number for track and trace purposes, wear face coverings, maintain a 1m distance and follow a strict one-way system round the church. Like so much else these days, it won’t be what it used to be, but it’s better than nothing. If you’d like to help, please get in touch with the office.

SUNDAY SERVICES AND PARKING

Edinburgh City Council has now introduced on-street parking charges from 12.30pm to 6.30pm every Sunday. With this in mind the Kirk Session has agreed that we shall continue to hold one service at 10.30am with the addition of a monthly evening service when the Council reintroduces its Open Streets programme, when it can be particularly difficult for some of our members to access the Kirk in the morning. Looking ahead we shall keep open the option of an additional earlier service, as previously, though it would have to start considerably earlier than the previous 10am Family Service slot. Comments – especially from those who used to attend the 10am service – would be welcome!

NEWS FROM THE ECO TEAM

Our Eco Team recently participated in the Our Trees citizen science project, developed jointly between the Church of Scotland and Edinburgh Napier University. The project involved identifying and measuring trees in the Kirkyard and Manse garden, to add to a database of trees on Church of Scotland land. The data collected will help us better understand the current carbon storage in our trees, helping the Church of Scotland achieve its aim of carbon neutrality by 2030.



COP26 UPDATES

Friday 23rd July marked 100 days until the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) arrives in Glasgow on Sunday 31st October 2021. Kirk members all over Scotland are pledging to join together in prayer and to take action. The Church of Scotland has a website page with news of how you can join in or find out more about this crucial conference. Visit <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/kirk-marks-100-days-until-cop26>

There is an initiative called Stiches for Survival <https://stitchesforsurvival.earth/> that is looking for volunteers to knit small blankets (60cm x 100cm) before September 30th. The blanket will be connected to make a giant scarf approx. 1.5 miles long and will be wrapped around a building in Glasgow during COP26.

LIFE & WORK

A reminder that you can get the monthly magazine of the Church of Scotland delivered directly to your door or sign up to receive digital copies by visiting their subscription page at <http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe/subscribe>

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| <i>Usual Office Opening Hours: Mon, Wed 9am – 1pm, Fri 8am – 12 noon.</i> | | | |
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