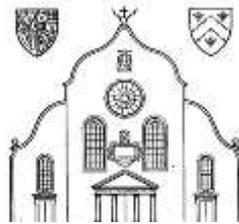


**CANONGATE KIRK**  
**THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE**  
**& EDINBURGH CASTLE**  
[www.canongatekirk.org.uk](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk)  
**Newsletter November 2021**



**MINISTER'S LETTER**

If you've watched the livestream of our Sunday service recently, you'll have noticed that the camera has moved from the front of the church to the gallery. It used to be focused purely on the lectern by the chancel step, giving a close up of whoever was speaking, but the wider angle means that now we can feel free to move away from the lectern and use the prayer stalls and pulpit like we used to. And it means that the viewer gets a wider picture of the interior of the church.

We need to be ready to take in the wider picture beyond the ancient walls of Canongate Kirk these days. The Presbytery of Edinburgh will soon publish its plan for the future of all the churches within its bounds, and as previously indicated every congregation will be affected one way or another. For the moment we have to wait and see how things unfold, but the wider picture just now is one of unsettling uncertainty.

Sometimes the Church can be guilty of looking inwards too much, of being preoccupied with itself rather than with those it is intended to serve and support. We need to hold on to a wider picture still. I've always felt that one of the benefits of our clear glass windows at Canongate Kirk is not just the natural bright light that floods in, but the view it gives us of the world around us, the world of trees and traffic, our world of people and places. We can't be too inward looking when we see what's around us. We need to hold on to the wider picture. Not least this month, as the eyes of the world turn to Glasgow and COP26, and world leaders and delegates consider the future of the planet. You simply don't get a wider picture than that. Nor a greater responsibility.

The Psalmist often considers God's view of the world, and at Psalm 53 writes "God looks down from heaven on humankind, to see if there are any who are wise..." We must pray that He will find wisdom both in Glasgow and in Edinburgh during the course of these coming critical weeks.

## PARISH REGISTER

### Wedding

2<sup>nd</sup> October      Cara Ramsay & Sam Lawson

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

### Marriage Blessing

23<sup>rd</sup> October      Richard & Alanna Harrison

### Funeral

22<sup>nd</sup> October      Major General Mark Strudwick CBE KStJ      Muiravonside

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

### Memorial Service

8<sup>th</sup> October      Bill Jamieson      Truro

## NAVAL SERVICES

On two Sundays in October we were glad to be joined by friends with a Royal Navy connection – on 1<sup>st</sup> a large delegation of WRENS marked the centenary of their founding; and on 17<sup>th</sup> members of the local branch of the Royal Naval Association attended in anticipation of Trafalgar Day. The Ship’s Bell, previously presented by the RNA, has now found a permanent home in the War Memorial Chapel, and was rung in celebration of the WRENS centenary!

## CANONGATE BOYS’ & GIRLS’ CLUBS REUNION DINNER

A particularly convivial time was enjoyed in the Harry Younger Hall on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October when over forty former members of the Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs gathered for a nostalgic evening of dinner, photographs, memories and stories. This was the first such combined event in both Clubs’ history. Messages from former members now living as far afield as Australia and Canada were read out, testimony to the enduring affection with which those distant days in the Canongate and at Skateraw are still widely held.

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING

As in previous years, at our Sunday service on 10<sup>th</sup> October Harvest was marked by donations of non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries generously supplied by the congregation and gratefully received by Streetwork, the local resource centre in Holyrood Road. Approximately £200 was also added to our own Homeless Fund. Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed in any way. Please note that the basket is back in the foyer for ongoing donations of food and toiletries, which will be regularly delivered to Streetwork.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND COP 26

The Moderator of the General Assembly, Lord Wallace, took part in a short service in Canongate Kirk to welcome a delegation from the Young Christian Climate Network to Edinburgh on 20<sup>th</sup> October. Having walked in relays from St Ives in Cornwall, the pilgrims spent a couple of days in the capital before heading on to COP26 in Glasgow. The Moderator also gave the second in a mini series of lectures on the timely subject of climate change, arranged in partnership with Old St Paul’s, Jeffrey Street. The first was given by elders of Canongate, Martin Baker and Alexis Moyer, in the Harry Younger Hall. A number of our congregation also attended an art exhibition on the theme of climate change, in St Cuthbert’s on 27<sup>th</sup> October, along with other representatives of the city centre cluster of churches, of which we are part.

## **KIRKYARD MEMORIAL GARDEN**

A new bench – in memory of Lt Col Gary Tait MBE – has been installed near the Mercat Cross in the south east corner of Canongate Kirkyard. In conjunction with the City Council, it is hoped that this area can be further developed as something of a Memorial Garden, with benches around the cross and plaques fixed to the back wall. There is a suggestion that it might eventually be called The Duke of Edinburgh Memorial Garden.

## **THE REVD KATHERINE TAYLOR**

One of our recent Assistant Ministers, Katherine Taylor, was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and inducted to the charge of Tranent Parish Church in East Lothian on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October. The Revd Neil Gardner was invited to be part of a restricted group of colleagues participating in the laying on of hands during the course of the service. Katherine has been recently serving as part-time Locum at Leith North Church, so this is her first fulltime appointment since leaving Canongate in 2019, and we wish her every blessing as she embarks on this exciting new chapter in her ministry.

## **ALL SAINTS**

On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October our order of service will list the names of those members of the congregation and wider church family who have died in the course of the last two years. Afterwards there will be a short celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion (bread only) for those who wish to stay behind. Although there is a protest march scheduled for Sunday, we are assured that cars will be able to leave the Canongate long before it approaches.

## **ALL AROUND BRITAIN**

Canongate Kirk provides a backdrop for an episode of the travel programme All Around Britain on ITV this Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 11.55am. If you miss it you can watch it later on <https://www.itv.com/hub/all-around-britain/10a0484>

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November when our service will begin at 10.45am and include the traditional Act of Remembrance at 11am. As before there will be a retiring offering in aid of Poppy Scotland and afterwards wreaths will be laid at the War Memorial.

## **EDINBURGH EASTER PLAY 2022**

The Edinburgh Easter play will take place next Spring at various city locations for the first time in 2 years. If you would like to volunteer as an actor, or know somebody who might be interested, then please get in touch with the director at [cuttingedge21@btinternet.com](mailto:cuttingedge21@btinternet.com) There are plenty of other non-acting opportunities and you can find out more at <https://easterplay.org/get-involved/>

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