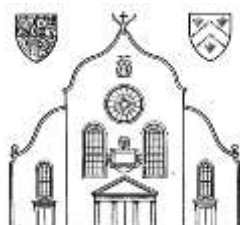


CANONGATE KIRK THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE & EDINBURGH CASTLE

www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Newsletter September 2022



MINISTER'S LETTER

As the curtain falls on the Edinburgh International Festival and Fringe once again, I'd like to thank all our concert stewards with a curtain call, as it were, of their own: Louise Brodie, Jenifer Davidson, Eric Drake, Alasdair Fairbairn, Neil Fleming, Imogen & Olivia Gibson. We've had a number of appreciative messages from a variety of performers acknowledging the welcome and support they got from our front of house team. Behind the scenes, special mention should also be made of Imogen for her patience in co-ordinating all the various rehearsals and requirements, which seemed to change regularly as every concert drew near! But now it's all over for another year.

I attended a number of the concerts in Canongate Kirk, but for one reason or another I wasn't in much of a mood for wider Festival-going this year. In the end I finally took myself off through the rubbish-strewn streets to the closing concert in the Usher Hall. It was Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*, stirringly delivered by the combined forces of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Edinburgh Festival Chorus and the National Youth Choir of Scotland, led by the distinguished conductor Sir Andrew Davis. And what a very impressive sound they all made! The *Dream of Gerontius* is a piece I've always known about but not really known, if you see what I mean. It's a setting of words by Cardinal Henry Newman, a dramatic and sometimes very sentimental poem about the end of a man's life and his transition to eternity. The most familiar words come as Gerontius prepares actually to come into the presence of God:

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise, -
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

It's a verse that always reminds me of another, from St Paul's Letter to the Romans, where he writes "*I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" Amongst all the worries and uncertainties of our times, both verses offer a reassuring reminder of God's enduring and unconditional love, through all our heights and depths, our dreams and nightmares, our hopes and fears. Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depth be praise...

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

14th August

Elise Ann Iona Leroux

Magnus Maximus Fitzgerald Phillips

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...”

Wedding

20th August

Alice St Clair Erskine & Oscar Jamieson at Rosslyn Chapel

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

Funeral

22nd August

Elizabeth Ann Gurdon

Middleby Street

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

KIRK FLOWERS

A short meeting for members and friends of the congregation who might be interested in helping to arrange flowers in the sanctuary from time to time will be held in church after the morning service (around 11-15am) on **Sunday 25th September**. Whether you have lots of experience in this sort of thing, or none, do feel free to come along.

OPEN KIRK

We continue to focus on Sunday afternoons primarily and volunteers are encouraged to sign up for slots from 12-2pm or from 2- 4pm on the board in the Kirk foyer. The hope is that the first shift might appeal to someone who has come to church and could stay on for a while after the service. But if you can help at other times that's good too, and the board in the foyer now includes weekdays as well. Just please be aware of the times when the church is already booked for concerts and events. These are marked on the board and can also be seen in our online calendar on the website. If you have not helped to welcome visitors and tourists before, and would like to find out more, please have a word with Lesley Wallace, our Open Kirk Co-ordinator.

FREE TALK Following on from last month's marking of the 200th anniversary of the King's visit to Edinburgh, you might like to know that local historian and festival guide Eric Melvin will give a talk entitled 'The Visit of George IV – August 1822' in the European Room of the City Chambers on Wednesday 7th September at 7pm. This illustrated talk is free and open to members of the public.

BLACKWELLS EVENT

On Friday 30th September at 7pm here in Canongate Kirk, Blackwell's Bookshop is hosting an author talk and book signing by the Costa Award-winning author Frances Hardinge. Frances will be talking about her new Young Adult book *Unravelling*, a fantasy thriller described as 'magically mysterious and spell-binding.' Tickets available from Blackwells Bookshop, 53-62 South Bridge or on-line from <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unraveller-frances-hardinge-tickets-399713402547>

EDINBURGH RIDING OF THE MARCHES 2022

After being cancelled in 2020 and 2021, the Edinburgh Riding of the Marches will once again take place this year on Sunday 11th September. This spectacular event is free to watch and all are welcome to the Royal Mile. Entertainment starts at around midday and the horses will be making their way up the Royal Mile around 3pm to muster by the Mercat Cross opposite the City Chambers. More information at

<https://edinburghridingofthemarches.com/our-events/the-edinburgh-riding-of-the-marches/>

EXPLORING EDINBURGH

Last year, Luath Press published a book about the architecture of Edinburgh, *Exploring Edinburgh* by Robin Ward, which features Canongate Kirk among other Edinburgh landmarks. Each building in the book is photographed and its architecture and history explored in a fascinating and compelling way. Copies can be ordered at £10.99 direct from the publisher at <https://www.luath.co.uk/> with 20% off orders over £20 using the code LUATH2020 and 30% off over £50 with LUATH3050.

NEW PICTURE OF CANONGATE KIRK

We have recently discovered a new print showing the façade of our kirk, painted by local artist Jennifer Court. An example can currently be seen in the front window of Canongate Jerseys and Crafts on the other side of the street from the kirk (next to the chip shop) or on the artist's website.

<https://www.jennifer-court.co.uk/product-page/canongate-church-edinburgh-print-with-gold-gouache-highlight>

BOOKS FOR BORROWING

Did you know that in the foyer cupboard at the Kirk there is a shelf of books with particular relevance to Canongate that can be borrowed by anyone, not least newcomers to the church or parish? Some of them specifically tell the history of our church and parish, others focus on military connections or other associations – the latest additions include a book by Heidi Kuhn, who recently gave a talk on her charity work turning minefields into vineyards in Afghanistan, and *Celebrating Seventy-Five Years 1947 – 2022*, an oral history of St John Scotland, its work and its volunteers.

QUEEN'S GALLERY EXHIBITION

Masterpieces of Buckingham Palace: a chance to enjoy some of the greatest paintings from the Royal Collection, with works by Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Rubens and Artemisia removed from the Picture Gallery at Buckingham Palace and temporarily displayed at The Queen's Gallery, Edinburgh. This wonderful show gives visitors a rare opportunity to get close to these masterpieces and find out why the newspapers are calling it: *Pure magic* ★★★★★ (The Scotsman); *An unmissable event* (The Guardian); *one of the world's most spectacular àààcollections* (The Times). Tickets and information: <https://bit.ly/3sHW0Ji> Until 25th September.

KIRKYARD UPDATE

As part of the Council's ongoing programme of improvements to the Kirkyard all paths have recently been re-laid with fresh gravel, both alongside the Kirk building and further afield. It's all looking much tidier these days and well worth a look.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

The weekly service continues to be livestreamed to our website at 10.30am every Sunday and then available online at any time, and may also be heard on a landline telephone – simply dial 0131 546 4001 and press 1 when prompted. Calls are charged at your phone provider's usual local rate – please let anyone know who is unable to access the internet but might appreciate this kind of connection.

QR CODE

We remain hugely grateful to everyone who has supported Canongate Kirk financially by various methods over the last two challenging years. The contactless machine in the foyer has come in very handy, but it's worth noting that we are unable to claim Gift Aid on donations that come in via this means. If you regularly donate via the contactless machine and would like the congregation to claim Gift Aid on your donation, at no further cost to yourself, please have a word with Jenifer Davidson, our Treasurer. Meanwhile we have a new means of facilitating donations to Canongate Kirk, using this QR code. When scanned with your smart phone it will take you straight to our digital donations page.



AUTUMN LECTURES AT GREENBANK CHURCH

This series of lectures jointly organised with Morningside Parish Church are on the theme of refugees. The lectures will all be held in Greenbank Parish Church, Braidburn Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 6ES starting at 7pm with refreshments beforehand at 6.30pm. There will be a retiring offering for the Church of Scotland's Ukrainian Aid appeal.

Sunday 11th September Sabir Zazai, CEO of the Scottish Refugee Council. He arrived in the UK as an asylum seeker in 1999 and has a wealth of knowledge in refugee integration, is passionate about refugee rights, social justice and intercultural relations.

Sunday 18th September Fr Vasyl Krenus. Fr Krenus is the priest of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Leith and has been instrumental in helping with the response to the Ukrainian displaced persons crisis in Edinburgh and beyond.

Sunday 25th September David Bradwell. David is the Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees and the Church of Scotland's Scottish Churches Parliamentary Officer and co-ordinates the Church's response to refugee issues.

Minister The Revd Neil Gardner nng22@btinternet.com 0131 556 3515
Kirk Secretary Imogen Gibson (office) canongatekirk@btinternet.com 0131 556 3515
Usual Office Hours: Mon 9am – 1pm, Wed 9am – 1pm, Thurs 9am- 12, Fri 8am - 12

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