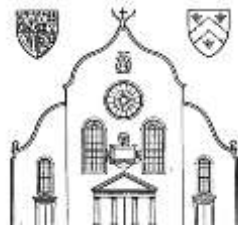


**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Newsletter November 2023



MINISTER'S LETTER

If you've ever travelled to Edinburgh Airport by the Airlink bus, your eye will have been caught by the replica Spitfire that sits on the grass by the road not far from the terminal. It's 603 Squadron's permanent memorial to those of its number who were lost during the Second World War but it serves as a reminder too of the days of RAF Turnhouse and of the various Spitfire Squadrons that were formed there.

Every year on Remembrance Sunday I lead an afternoon Act of Remembrance for 603 Squadron by their Spitfire memorial. The service itself is a reminder of how Remembrance used to be observed in the old days – for a while the road is closed to traffic and thanks to Air Traffic Control even flights are temporarily stopped from taking off or landing. If the weather conditions are right there's an evocative flypast by an actual Spitfire, the distinctive hum of which you can hear long before you see it appearing over the horizon. But then for a moment all is quiet, unusually so given the location, and we are given a real chance to remember and reflect, before the flights resume and the road reopens and the noise returns.

Our own annual Service of Remembrance begins at 10.45am on Sunday 12th November, and this year brings to an end what we have called a season of reflection and renewal that began with Harvest Thanksgiving. It's an ongoing opportunity for members of the congregation to consider ways in which they might be willing to help with the work and witness of Canongate Kirk – sheets to fill in and return are available in the church and there's been an encouraging number of responses thus far. But if you haven't yet had the chance to consider it, I hope you might still find a moment of quiet for reflection and renewal, even in the midst of busy and noisy days, and find a way in which you might be able to share your experience and interest in taking Canongate Kirk forward. In any case I hope you can come along on Remembrance Sunday when remembrance and reflection and renewal all come together in our biggest service of the year.

Neil Gardner

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

22nd October Rory McLeish Brodie Duncan
27th October Charlie Henry Chalmers McColl
Jack Alexander George McColl
29th October Thomas James Alexander Callander *at Crichton*
“Then he took them in his arms and blessed them.”

Funeral

5th October Elizabeth (Liz) Fisher Learmonth Terrace
“Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

TREVOR MARTINDALE, CANDIDATE IN TRAINING

It has been a great privilege to attend Canongate Kirk these past few weeks. The surprising speed at which my final short placement has passed thus far has given me only a brief glimpse into life and worship here. Nevertheless, I am indeed thankful for it all. I've enjoyed meeting and spending some time with people and journeying in some way through this time of reflection and renewal that Canongate is going through. You may not be surprised to hear that one of the aspects that I've enjoyed the most has been the learning and participating in the rich liturgical tradition that is present at Canongate. I have felt drawn closer to God as a result and am deeply grateful for the time spent with you. I'm here officially until Remembrance Sunday so I would still welcome anyone who might wish to share a coffee and/or chat with me about their experience of liturgy and its impact on their faith. I can be reached by phone (07835122488) or by email TMartindale@churchofscotland.org.uk

SEASON OF REFLECTION AND RENEWAL

As mentioned in the Minister's letter our season of reflection and renewal continues until Remembrance Sunday. It is intended to encourage members of our congregation to identify particular areas of our Kirk's life in which they might have a particular interest or experience, and with which they might be prepared to become a bit more involved. Forms supporting this process are available in church and will also be sent out on-line before the season comes to an end.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Our traditional service of Harvest Thanksgiving took place on Sunday 15th October. Many thanks to all those who contributed foodstuffs and toiletries which were promptly delivered to Trussell Trust Edinburgh Foodbank network, which gratefully acknowledged 115 Kg of donations. We are also grateful for around £400 which was raised for our own Homeless Fund.

REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance Sunday this year falls on Sunday 12th November when our service will begin slightly later than usual at 10.45am. As always there will be a retiring offering in aid of Poppy Scotland and a short wreath-laying ceremony by the War Memorial afterwards. Meanwhile connecting people is the theme of a free exhibition between the Royal Scots and Remembrance at Dalkeith Palace. The exhibition runs from Saturday 4th to Wednesday 8th November, 10am – 4pm, and represents a rare opportunity to visit Dalkeith Palace which was designed by James Smith, the same architect who designed Canongate Kirk.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Canongate Kirk has commissioned a new Christmas card featuring the palace pew's replica of the Honours of Scotland that were presented to HM The King in St Giles' Cathedral in July. These are now available for purchase in packs of 10 @ £5, all proceeds to church funds. One or two previous cards featuring cartoons of Canongate choirboys have been reprinted and are also available for purchase at the church any Sunday or at the office during the week.

EVENING SERVICES

We were pleased to welcome Rev Richard Frazer as our guest preacher in October prior to his stepping back after 20 years of ministry at Greyfriars Kirk. Our next united evening service with St Giles will take place on Sunday 26th November at 7pm, supported as always by a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir. All welcome.

ST ANDREW'S DAY

The annual service organised by the Society of Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem will take place in St Cuthbert's Church at 2pm on Thursday 30th November. Given the awful turn of events in Israel and Gaza of late, the service will have an added poignancy this year with input from the Church of Scotland ministers who have currently been brought back from their charges in Jerusalem and Tiberius. All welcome.

LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

Although our schedule of services has yet to be finalised it is likely that this year's traditional service of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday 17th December. With this in mind our usual 'home-grown' choir is invited to gather round the piano for rehearsals at 9.30am from Sunday 26th November onwards. First timers welcome!

HIGH CONSTABLES

Advance notice that our morning service on Sunday 2nd December will include the Kirking of the High Constables and Guard of Honour of Holyroodhouse.

CONTACTLESS MACHINE

Our previous machine has been replaced by a new 'Payaz' contactless machine which has allowed us to set up different donation values, or let the donor choose the amount they wish to give. Where applicable we will also be able to claim Gift Aid on donations. The first time you use the new machine you will be asked if you wish Gift Aid to be applied. If yes, just follow the steps on the screen. Once you have registered for Gift Aid, so long as you use the same card, you will not be asked again.

CRAFT CLUB UPDATE

The Baby Blanket Crafters were delighted this month to be short listed for an award for Excellence in the Community given by the University of Edinburgh. A delegation of Canongate Crafters attended a splendid award ceremony at McEwan Hall on October 24th. Though we didn't win the award, we enjoyed the beautiful surroundings and fantastic organ music from John Kitchen. We spread the word about our initiative to make cotton and acrylic blankets and hats for the Simpson's neonatal unit, and as a result may have some potential new members from the University to join us. The Craft club continues to meet monthly in the hall on the second Wednesday of each month from 6.30pm – 8pm with the next two meetings on November 8th and December 13th. The group is open to crafters and non-crafters, skilled and non-skilled alike – you can be sure of a friendly welcome!

BBC SONGS OF PRAISE

If you missed the TV programme on 'Edinburgh's Religious Treasures' on Sunday 29th October, which included a visit to St Margaret's Chapel and one of the hymns (*I heard the voice of Jesus say*) recorded in Canongate last year, don't forget you can always watch it on BBC iPlayer <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001s09d/songs-of-praise-edinburghs-religious-treasures>

UPCOMING CONCERTS IN CANONGATE

Saturday 4th November 7.30pm: Calton Consort *O Bone Jesu* £15/12

Based on the Latin hymn, *O Bone Jesu*, with settings by Robert Carver and James MacMillan.

Sunday 19th November 4.30pm: Glasgow Chamber Choir *Hail Bright Cecilia* £15/8

Celebrating St Cecilia from across the centuries, from Peter Philips' *Cecilia Virgo* composed in the early 17th century up to the present.

Saturday 25th November 7.30pm: Open Orchestra plays Tchaikovsky FREE

Symphony No. 1 in G minor, Op. 13 '*Winter Daydreams*'.

Saturday 9th December 7.30pm: Calton Consort *A Boy was Born* £15/12

A festive programme of music based around Benjamin Britten's composition.

Sunday 10th December 7.30pm: Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society £15



A very merry evening of festive G & S favourites!

Saturday 16th December 7.30pm: St Andrew Camerata Christmas Concert £12/8

Tickets for all shows available via performers' websites or on the door.

In addition you might like to know that members of the congregation are welcome to attend the following charity carol services:

Thursday 7th December	6pm	ABF Military Carol Service
Thursday 14th December	6pm	Crisis Carol Service
Sunday 17th December	4pm	Royal British Legion Carol Service

Minister	The Revd Neil Gardner	nng22@btinternet.com	0131 556 3515
Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	canongatekirk@btinternet.com	0131 556 3515
<i>Office Opening Hours: Mon, Wed 9am – 1pm, Thursday 9am – 12 noon, Fri 8am – 12 noon.</i>			
Website: www.canongatekirk.org.uk  @CanongateKirk  @canongate.kirk			
Scottish Charity SC 015251			