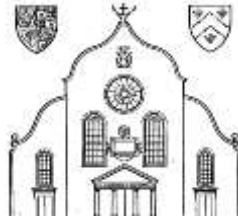


**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE**

www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Newsletter August 2025



MINISTER'S LETTER

I am no great enthusiast for online “Zoom” (other platforms are available) meetings, but even I have to admit that they have very much become a part of normal life, and that’s likely to be the case for the foreseeable future. While there’s still nothing quite like old-fashioned “face to face” encounters, there are certainly times and circumstances when online meetings make perfect sense, and indeed allow conversations when otherwise they simply would not be possible. This morning, for instance, I attended an online meeting of the College of Deans of the Order of St John. It started at 10am and was “attended” not just by my counterparts in England and Wales, but in Canada (where it was 5am), Hong Kong (5pm), Australia (7pm) and New Zealand (11pm). I wasn’t even at home at the time and managed the whole thing on my phone! And in our different time-zones and in our different corners of the world we had an hour’s constructive conversation, all at once. As together we spoke aloud the words of the Grace at the end, I was reminded of that verse in the much-loved hymn “The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended”:

*While o’er each continent and island,
The dawn leads on another day;
The voice of prayer is never silent
Nor dies the song of praise away.*

We sang it at our latest united evening service in July, when we were joined by Streatham Choral, a large choir from London on a long-weekend visit to Edinburgh. Bringing their considerable forces to bear in the introit and anthem, it was a truly memorable service and appropriately set the scene for the forthcoming Festival and Fringe. All the concerts we’re hosting are listed in detail in this newsletter, and in separate fliers at the Kirk. I commend them to your interest and support - in the official Fringe brochure you’ll find Canongate Kirk listed as Venue 60 and the Harry Younger Hall as Venue 13. The dawn leads on another day and another Festival is about to dawn, when the whole world comes to Edinburgh, all at once!

Neil Gardner

PARISH REGISTER

WEDDING

26th July

Isabella McMicking & George Borrows

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

PARISH GROUPING

United Evening Service

Our next monthly united evening service in conjunction with St Giles' takes place on Sunday 31st August at 7pm. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery.

Edinburgh 900 Exhibition

Celebrating the 900th anniversaries of both St Giles' Cathedral and Edinburgh, 'Edinburgh's First Burghers' at St Giles' brings together new research of medieval burials first excavated in 1981 to reveal the lives and hidden faces of Edinburgh's medieval citizens. The exhibition also features new lighting designs to project the facial reconstructions of five early Edinburghers, along with a short film featuring interviews with the project team and Cathedral staff, discussing the results and importance of the work to the heritage of the City and the Cathedral. Until 30th November. Opening hours: Mon - Fri : 10am - 6pm; Sat : 9am - 5pm; Sun : 1pm - 5pm. Admission is free.

ANDREW HENSHAW

Andrew's placement at Canongate Kirk, as part of his ongoing training as a candidate for ministry in the Church of Scotland, came to an end in July. We want to thank Andrew warmly for his participation in services and other events during his time with us. He entered willingly and enthusiastically into every opportunity and we hope it won't be too long before we can welcome him back among us. In the meantime we wish him every blessing as he continues along the road towards full time ministry of Word and Sacrament.

BBC RADIO 4 SUNDAY WORSHIP

This will be broadcast live from Canongate Kirk at 8.10am on Sunday 10th August. Making the inevitable connection with Edinburgh at Festival time, the service will be led by former Moderator of the General Assembly, the Very Revd Sally Foster-Fulton. Music will be supplied by Siskin Green folk trio and singers from Edinburgh University Chamber Choir. But there will be a couple of hymns (accompanied by Simon Leach) and members and friends of the congregation are more than welcome to come along and swell the singing! You will need to be seated by 7-45am, but please do come if you can. The more the merrier!

OPEN KIRK

There is a rota in the foyer for volunteers to sign up for Open Kirk on Saturdays and Sundays between 11am and 1.30pm or 1.30pm and 4pm. Please help if you can. Our student intern, Roselle Brown will continue to help with Open Kirk Mondays to Fridays until the end of August. So far she has welcomed over 6750 people into the church – an average of 450 a day.

CRAFT CLUB NEWS

Next month's meeting of the Craft Club will be on Monday 11th August from 6.30pm – 8pm in the Manse Meeting Room (NOT the Harry Younger Hall as it is booked up for the Fringe.) New members are most welcome - the group is open to crafters and non-crafters, skilled and non-skilled alike.

CANONGATE KIRK AT THE FRINGE

Our programme this year is an eclectic mix of classical music, jazz, pop, folk and poetry. The Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts is also holding three events at Canongate Kirk during the Fringe, including two events celebrating the winners of their competitions for young composers and young poets. On 20th and 22nd August, former Canongate Kirk organist, David Goodenough is performing Bach's Organ Trio Sonatas. Please come and support him if you can! The first of our Fringe concerts this year is on Saturday 9th August at 5pm with the Dales Community Pop Choir – free admission. More information about all the events on page 4, or pick up a leaflet at the church.

HARRY YOUNGER HALL AT THE EDINBURGH FRINGE

We are delighted that, after a hiatus of 5 years, the Harry Younger Hall will once again join the Edinburgh Festival Fringe as Venue 13. Producers Ian Garrett and Vanesa Kelly and their team will transform the hall into a dedicated theatre space and performance hub for a number of different groups. One of these is Climate Change Theatre Action 2025, to which our eco-congregation representative Alexis Moyer has drawn our attention. Find out more about their exciting and innovative programme at <https://www.venue13.com/> or pick up a leaflet in the church.

PALACE EXHIBITION

Royal Portraits – A Century of Photography at the King's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse, charts the evolution of royal portrait photography from the 1920s to the present day, bringing together photographic prints, proofs and documents from the Royal Collection and the Royal Archives, including works from Cecil Beaton and Dorothy Wilding to Annie Leibovitz and Rankin. Open daily until 7th September <https://bit.ly/4gmsNZU>

LIFE AND WORK MAGAZINE

After it was announced at the General Assembly that the monthly magazine of the Church of Scotland is to cease publication, the Life and Work team have published their final issue. This commemorative edition can be viewed free on-line at <https://digital.lifeandwork.org/> Alternatively, FREE print copies of the final issue are available by emailing admin@lifeandwork.org

HISTORIC CHURCHES WALKING TRAIL

A new ecumenical walking trail featuring ten of the city's most historic and best loved churches has been launched by Scotland's three largest Christian denominations. The trail leads from the Royal Mile, including St Giles' and Canongate Kirk, continues through the New Town and finishes at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in the West End. Read more about it at <http://bit.ly/4ofmHj1> or pick up one of the leaflets available in all the featured churches.

STAMPS

Don't forget that we have had an ongoing collection for used stamps for many years. This year's Stamp Appeal proceeds go towards the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian project Firmly Planted, which aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries in Malawi.

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Office Hours: Mon + Wed + Fri 9am – 1pm, Thurs 9am – 12 noon. Closed Tuesdays

<https://www.canongatekirk.org.uk/>



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Scottish Charity SC 015251

EDINBURGH FRINGE 2025 EVENTS AT CANONGATE KIRK (VENUE 60)

Saturday 9th August – 5pm **FREE**

DALES COMMUNITY POP CHOIR

A selection of pop favourites and modern show tunes in three and four-part harmony.

Sunday 10th August – 7pm **£12/£10**

TUTTI ORCHESTRA

An evening of classics from the silver screen.

Monday 11th August – 1.15pm **£12**

YOUNG COMPOSERS RECITAL (EDINBURGH SACRED ARTS FESTIVAL)

Performance of compositions by the winners of the 2025 Sacred Music young composers' competition, with the Sacred Arts Festival Singers.

Monday 11th August – 7.30pm **£15/£12**

EDINBURGH BACH ENSEMBLE

Works by Handel, Marcello and Vivaldi, with Bach sung by the exciting young soprano Angela Hicks.

Wednesday 13th August – 1.15pm **£12**

YOUNG RELIGIOUS POETS COMPETITION (EDINBURGH SACRED ARTS FESTIVAL)

The winners will read their poems alongside poets Robert Crawford and Christine De Luca.

Wednesday 13th August – 7.30pm **£15**

THE ROBIN CHAPEL CHOIR

Edinburgh's Robin Chapel Choir and Hannover's Vox Spiritus perform a stunning British and German programme.

Thursday 14th August – 7.30pm **£16**

THE HOWE STREET ENSEMBLE (EDINBURGH SACRED ARTS FESTIVAL)

Exquisite choral works by Vivaldi. Directed by Les Shankland

Friday 15th August – 7.30pm **£15/£12**

EDINBURGH BACH ENSEMBLE

Concertos by Bach, Corelli and Vivaldi. Exciting young soprano Angela Hicks will sing Rameau and Vivaldi.

Saturday 16th August – 12 noon **£10**

ORGAN RECITAL BY DAVID HAMILTON

In the superb acoustic of Canongate, David Hamilton performs a wide range of Bach's organ music.

Saturday 16th August – 5pm **FREE**

HITHERTONES

A 60-minute eclectic musical journey featuring rich harmonies and soulful melodies.

Sunday 17th August – 6pm **£13/£11**

ALASTAIR SAVAGE AND FRIENDS

Fringe favourite Alastair performs Scots fiddle music old and new alongside a stellar cast of Scotland's finest folk musicians.

Tuesday 19th August – 8.30pm **£15/£12**

CALTON CONSORT

Journey through the seasons, nature and devotion in an hour of mesmerising choral music.

Wednesday 20th August at 6pm & Friday 22nd August at 6pm **£10**

BACH'S ORGAN TRIO SONATAS

Former Canongate Kirk organist David Goodenough offers perfect tea-time music over two concerts. Please come to support David if you can!

Saturday 23rd August – 3pm **FREE**

JAM THEATRE COMPANY – THAT 70'S CHOIR

A new concert of 70s hits that will get you grooving.

Tickets and information for all shows available at the Fringe Box Office

<https://www.edfringe.com/tickets>

