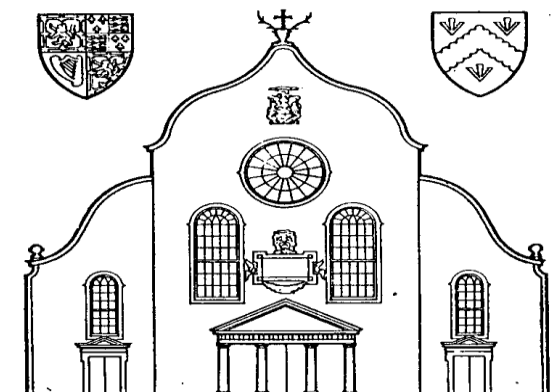


CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
& EDINBURGH CASTLE

Newsletter
April 2017



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

2nd	Lent 5	10:	Family Service
		11 – 15 :	Parish Worship
9th	Palm Sunday	10:	Family Service, with Baptism
		11 – 15 :	Parish Worship, with Baptism
13th	Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Holy Communion
14th	Good Friday	7.30pm	Evening Service
16th	Easter Sunday	10:	Family Service
		11 – 15 :	Parish Worship, with Holy Communion
23rd	Easter 2	10:	Family Service
		11 – 15 :	Parish Worship
30th	Easter 3	10:	Family Service
		11 – 15 :	Parish Worship, with Holy Communion

Minister	The Revd Neil Gardner	556 3515
Assistant Minister	Mr Peter Sutton	0771 8311319
Kirk Secretary	Imogen Gibson (office)	556 3515

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

5th March

Patrick Atticus Sanderson

“Then he took them in his arms and blessed them.”

Wedding

4th March

Ida Johanne Lillebo & Bryce Miller

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

Funerals

3rd March

Col George Coltart

Colinton Road

9th March

Anne Mathewson

Cluny Lodge

10th March

Evelyn Wallace

Castle Green

22nd March

Catherine Airlie

formerly Dunbar’s Close

27th March

Christopher Grossart

Moredun

“Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

MINISTER’S LETTER

Rather than give anything up for Lent this year – I’ve given up giving up these days – I’ve taken up trying deliberately to get more exercise by walking a bit more every day. With this in mind, I recently acquired one of those electronic wristbands which calculates the number of steps I take. It also “syncs” to the iPhone, which tells me how many miles I’ve walked, how many calories I’ve burned, what my sleep pattern is like and what my average heart rate is but my main interest is seeing the number of steps I’ve walked and whether or not I’ve reached my daily target of 10,000. I can usually account for at least half of those pottering around the Manse and walking up and down a well worn path to the Kirk and back several times a day!

When it comes to following in the footsteps of Jesus, of course it’s the quality rather than the quantity of our steps that counts; the steps we take in following his example of service to others, the extent to which we are in “sync” with his great commandment to love one another even as he loves us. We have several opportunities to follow in his footsteps one way or another this coming Holy Week and Easter, not least in the processional event carrying a cross and walking down the Royal Mile in the afternoon of Palm Sunday, and in the evening service following the Stations of the Cross round the walls of St Patrick’s, Cowgate, on Monday 10th April. Details of these and the other Holy Week and Easter services can be found in the following paragraph. I hope you will be able to join in with some of these services, so that together we can walk in the footsteps of Jesus. That’s what counts.

Happy Easter!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Looking ahead to Holy Week and Easter this year, there will once again be several ecumenical services and events shared with our neighbouring congregations of St Patrick's and Old St Paul's. These will begin with a pilgrimage service in the afternoon of Palm Sunday, 9th April, beginning at the Mercat Cross outside St Giles Cathedral at 2pm and wending our way down the Royal Mile with a pause to hear something of the Passion Narrative outside each of our churches and finishing up around 3pm in the grounds of the Abbey at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The ecumenical momentum will continue with a service following the Stations of the Cross in St Patrick's at 7-30pm on Monday 10th April, Tenebrae at 7-30pm in Old St Paul's on Wednesday 12th April and an Evening Service for Good Friday in Canongate at 7-30pm on 14th April. We will also have our usual Evening Service of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, 13th April, at 7.30pm. And then on Easter Sunday, the Family Service at 10am will be in the main nave of the Kirk and the 11-15am service of Parish Worship will include a special celebration of Holy Communion.

LENT STUDY GROUP

This year's study group comes to an end on Thursday 6th April, when we shall be looking at the last chapter, entitled "He prayed that there might be another way", of Stephen Cottrell's book "The things he did". Over the previous sessions we have considered in more detail some of the other things Jesus did during Holy Week, including riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, overturning the tables of the money-changers, washing the disciples' feet and sharing the last supper of bread and wine. The sessions have been well supported and have led to lively and wide-ranging discussions! A new series of Bible Study will be arranged in due course.

ECUMENICAL MORNING PRAYER

It's been good to join with friends from St Patrick's and Old St Paul's in the regular short service of Morning Prayer at 8am in Jeffrey Street every Wednesday morning during Lent. This comes to an end on Wednesday 12th April but Old St Paul's hold Morning Prayer all year round and are always glad to welcome friends from neighbouring churches.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The new series of fellowship gatherings got off to a happy and harmonious start with a Songs of Praise in the Harry Younger Hall on Thursday 30th March and will next meet on Thursday 27th April at 7pm in the church foyer for the film *Florence Foster Jenkins* starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant. Accompanied by pop-corn and ice cream. Please note the change of venue. Details of future fellowship gatherings can be found on the leaflets at the back of the church.

SOUP LUNCH

This month's soup lunch and bingo will be held on Tuesday 4th April at 12 noon in the Harry Younger Hall. Admission £2. All welcome.

CONCERTS

Wakefield Grammar School Foundation Senior Concert Band will be performing a concert on Sunday 9th April at 5pm including highlights from *Moulin Rouge*, a selection of film music by John Williams, *West Side Story* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Admission free.

THE EDINBURGH EASTER PLAY 2017

This year's performance starts at 2pm on Saturday 15th April in Princes Street Gardens West. As before, this will be a large scale traditional Passion Play in period costume.

MARIA MERIAN'S BUTTERFLIES

A new exhibition at The Queen's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse, tells the story of the German artist and entomologist who set sail for South America in 1699. Her beautiful pictures of butterflies, plants and insects recorded on her trip have been selected from the Royal Collection. The exhibition runs until 23rd July 2017.

CHRISTIAN AID SALE

The annual book sale with art and collectables at St Andrew's and St George's West Church, 13 George Street, will take place on Saturday 13th May and Monday 15th – Friday 19th May 2017. Books, paintings, antiques, sheet music, stamps and postcards, records and DVDs, games and jigsaws can all be handed in to St Andrew's and St George's West from Monday 1st – Wednesday 10th May from 9am – 9pm.

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## **DUTY ELDERS FOR APRIL**

|                  |             |                 |               |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Stuart McFarlane | Fiona Grant | Jane Stewart    | Robert Watson |
| Colin Stewart    | Roddy Gow   | Jacky McFarlane | Rachel Wright |
| Ann Gibson       |             |                 |               |

## **DUTY ELDERS FOR MAY**

|               |            |               |             |
|---------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| Rie Stevenson | Anne Baker | Gavin Brydone | Kate Church |
| Anne Croft    | Dinah Croy | John Fanning  | Etta Geekie |
| Martin Baker  | Mark Peel  |               |             |

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