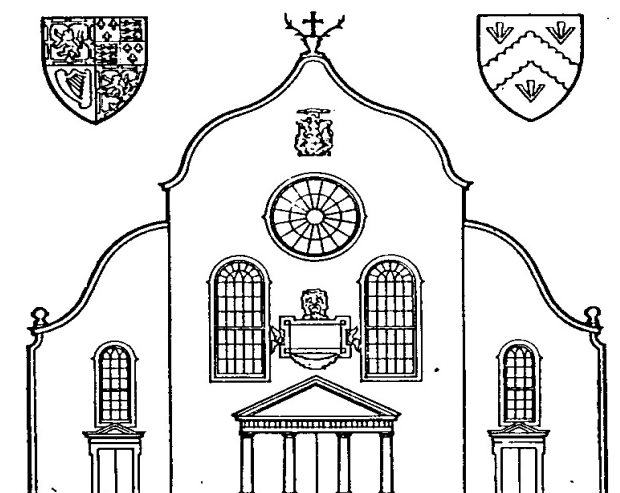


CANONGATE KIRK THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE & EDINBURGH CASTLE

Newsletter
March 2017



SUNDAY SERVICES

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

5th	Lent 1	10:	Family Service, with Baptism
		11-15:	Parish Worship
12th	Lent 2	10:	Family Service
		11-15:	Parish Worship, and Annual Meeting
19th	Lent 3	10:	Family Service
		11-15:	Parish Worship, and WW1 Commemoration
26th	Lent 4	10:	Family Service
	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	11-15:	Parish Worship, with Holy Communion
<i>NB Clocks go forward one hour during the night of 25th March.</i>			

Scottish Charity SC 015251

E mail: canongatekirk@btinternet.com www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Twitter: @CanongateKirk

[facebook.com/canongate.kirk](https://www.facebook.com/canongate.kirk)

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

PARISH REGISTER

Wedding

11th February Lucy Buchanan & Euan Kelly

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

Funerals

8th February Mark Armstrong ex Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

23rd February Alexander Millar Lower Granton Road

24th February Catherine Erskine Cleish, Fife

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

MINISTER’S LETTER

Our next WW1 centenary commemoration falls this month, on Sunday 19th March. During the 11.15am service we will focus on LCpl David Simpson, who was killed in action while serving with The Black Watch in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) on 14th March 1917, just days before his 20th birthday. In the face of persistent enemy fire, his platoon lost successive commanders six times in as many minutes, but it was reported that LCpl Simpson then “led the remaining men with the same dash and judgement as his seniors.” The service will be attended by several members of the extended Simpson family and by members of the local branch of the Black Watch Association and afterwards flowers will be laid by the family gravestone in the Kirkyard. As a former chaplain to The Black Watch who once conducted the funeral of a soldier killed in Iraq, the service will have a special poignancy for me. But coming as it does in the middle of Lent, as we look ahead to marking once again the suffering and death of Jesus as a young man, we are surely all reminded by this young local man’s sacrifice a century ago that *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends...*

LENT STUDY GROUP

After our recent series of Bible Study sessions on selected chapters from the Book of Isaiah, we now have a Lent Study Group meeting every Thursday morning at 11am in the meeting room of the Manse at 95 Canongate. Rather than looking at a book from the Bible, we are following Stephen Cottrell’s book “The Things He Did”, which considers the actions of Jesus during Holy Week. As always, these are not intended to be academic tutorials and all are welcome.

ECUMENICAL MORNING PRAYER

As last year, an invitation is extended to members of the congregations of Canongate Kirk and St Patrick’s Cowgate to join with members of Old St Paul’s Jeffrey Street in their regular short service of Morning Prayer at 8am every Wednesday morning during Lent.

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 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. Please put these dates in your diary so that Canongate can be as well represented as possible in all these services.

MEETING FOR OPEN KIRK VOLUNTEERS

In advance of the forthcoming Open Kirk season, the Kirk Session has recently undertaken a review of how we deliver and manage Open Kirk arrangements with a view to further standardising and streamlining related processes. Prior to this season's commencement around Easter time, potential and current volunteers are invited to an Open Kirk Gathering Meeting in the Harry Younger Hall on Thursday 16 March 2017 at 6.30pm. Those intending to be present should give their name to either the Session Clerk, Lesley Wallace or Ann Gibson.

FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

The new programme for 2017 will start again on 30th March at 7:00pm in the Harry Younger Hall with a 'Songs of Praise' Evening, when members of the congregation will talk about a favourite hymn and its importance to them. This will be followed by a finger buffet. All welcome.

TRANSPORT TO THE KIRK

The Kirk Session has for some time been considering how to support those members who need help to get to church on an occasional basis. With this in mind we need to identify both those who would benefit from such a service and those who could help by driving them to church and back. It is envisaged that this help would be strictly on an occasional basis and that volunteer drivers would only be asked to provide driver services about once every two months. Anyone from the congregation who would be willing to participate in the scheme should provide their name to the Session Clerk. Confirmation of the scheme will be dependent upon sufficient driver volunteers coming forward.

PANMURE HOUSE

The final stage of conservation for Panmure House has been underway since November and aims to be completed by March 2018. You can see more about the progress of this project by visiting <http://www.panmurehouse.org/>

PUBLIC MEETING

There will be a public meeting about the new hotel application for the site of the old Royal High School on 14th March at 6.30pm, Central Hall, Tollcross. For more information visit the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland website on www.ahss.org.uk/SaveRHS

CANONGATE CONCERTS IN MARCH

Calton Consort	<i>Lobet den Herrn</i>	Sat 11 th	6.30pm	£10/£8
Open Orchestra		Sat 18 th	7.30pm	(closing collection)
The Edinburgh Singers	<i>British Choral Icons</i>	Sun 26 th	7.30pm	£12/£10
Dunedin Consort	<i>'Do not repine fair sun'</i>	Wed 29 th	7.30pm	£15

OTHER CONCERTS IN MARCH

Old St Paul's Choir will be performing *Crucifixus – Music for Lent* at 7.30pm on Friday 17th March at Old St Paul's Church, Jeffrey Street.

Edinburgh Bach Choir will be performing *St John Passion* by JS Bach at St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Lothian Road on Saturday 25th March, 7.30pm. Tickets at £14/£12/£5 are available from Ann McCarter.

THE EDINBURGH EASTER PLAY 2017

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

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## DUTY ELDERS FOR MARCH

|                   |                |            |              |
|-------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|
| Donald Davidson   | Rosemary Bowe  | John Smith | Ann McCarter |
| Alastair Bowe     | Lesley Wallace | Mary Craig | Helen Aitken |
| Christina Coltart |                |            |              |

## DUTY ELDERS FOR APRIL

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