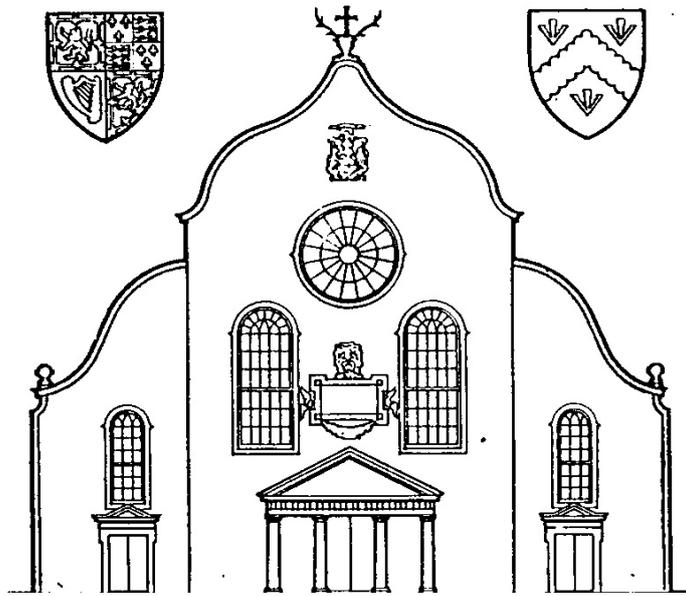


# CANONGATE KIRK THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE & EDINBURGH CASTLE

Newsletter  
November 2016



## SUNDAY SERVICES

<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November</b> <i>3 before Advent</i>	10am	Family Service
	11-15am	Parish Worship
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Remembrance</i>	10-45am	Remembrance
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Christ the King</i>	10am	Family Service
	11-15am	Parish Worship, with High Constables
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Advent 1</i>	10am	Family Service
	11-15am	Parish Worship, with Holy Communion

## PARISH REGISTER

### Weddings

1<sup>st</sup> October Megan Evans & Charles Livingstone

22<sup>nd</sup> October Jessica Proudman & Neil Simpson

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

### Funeral

4<sup>th</sup> October Robert Gardner, St Mary’s Street

### Internment of Ashes

24<sup>th</sup> October Mary Ayles

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

**ASSISTANT MINISTER’S LETTER** Our fellowship gathering has been exploring the theme of hope and the month of November often puts our hope to the test. It is a time for remembering not just all the Saints who have gone before us along with all those who gave us their lives in both World Wars but also a time to remember those who we dearly miss at a personal and intimate level. The darkness of the season sometimes makes it feel as if the light at the end of the tunnel has not yet been lit. However we entered this often testing month in the most powerful and hopeful way possible by sharing in Holy Communion - Christ's body and blood. Our communion encourages us to be a community of love and support for one another filled with the hope of the risen Christ in our hearts. The seemingly sometimes distant Christ and the hope that he brings to us is beautiful portrayed in a famous painting by Holman Hunt called 'The Light of the World', in St Paul’s Cathedral. You can see the painting on line by following this link <http://bit.ly/1LkdbRt>. It is a hopeful reminder that by opening the door (our hearts) to others we too can find new direction and focus to help light up the darkened road ahead of us. This season of remembrance draws us towards Advent and Hunt's painting is an encouraging and hopeful bridge between the two. He has packed into this painting so much about who Jesus is and how he relates to us. Firstly, notice that the door has no outside handle – it can only be opened from within: Christ knocks on each of our hearts, but only we may open up to him. Notice too that it has become overgrown with weeds: this door has not been opened for some length of time. The lights in the scene are full of meaning too. Whilst the rising lights in the background provide some illumination, the main illumination is through Jesus’ lamp (“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” – Psalm 119:105). Remember too that the crown of the one who knocks is composed of thorns. He meets us as the wounded healer. In this painting there is something for everyone but particularly during November hope for those in need. The light at the end of the tunnel has been lit.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** As usual there will be one service on Remembrance Sunday, starting at 10-45am to take in the national silence around

11am. This year we will be joined by members of the Lowland Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland as well as an Army piper and bugler. There will be a Retiring Offering in aid of Poppy Scotland and after the service a short wreath-laying ceremony will be held at the War Memorial on the Canongate.

**BIBLE STUDY** There's still time to come along to the current Bible Study series, looking at St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians at 11am every Thursday morning in the meeting room of the Manse up to and including Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November. As before, these are not intended to be academic tutorials, and all are welcome to come along to as many or as few of the sessions as they can manage.

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING** The appeal for funds at the recent Harvest Thanksgiving services raised £374 to support our own congregational team's participation in a city-wide programme to feed the homeless. In addition to this significant amount, a car-load of food and toiletries was delivered to Streetwork in Holyrood Road on Monday morning to support their work in the local community. Clare Pecot of Streetwork sent a letter with the following message: *'On behalf of Streetwork I would like to thank you very much for your recent donation of food and toiletries. Everyday, we are on the streets of Edinburgh, seeking, finding and connecting with the most vulnerable people, we do not wait for them to come to us....The food you donated will be really appreciated by people presenting at our Crisis Service, people who have nowhere else to go, nobody to turn to. The toiletries are being given out to people in our Crisis centre whether they need to shower or to shave.'* We continue to collect for Streetwork and there is a basket in the kitchen for donations.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** This will take place in the Harry Younger Hall on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00am – 12 noon. Tickets £2 on sale from John Fanning. Free admission for children under 12. There will be a magician and special visit from Santa. Donations of soft toys, gift packs of toiletries and Christmas decorations welcome but please **not** bric-a-brac or books. These can be dropped off at the Manse office during office hours.

**FELLOWSHIP GROUP** The Fellowship Gathering hosted another super film evening. We all enjoyed watching the award winning French film - 'The Chorus'. The film set out to show how the pupils' lives at a boarding school could be changed by acquainting them with the magic and power of music. A wonderful story of 'hope' - our theme this autumn series. All are welcome to join the next meeting on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in the Harry Younger Hall for a 'Fish and Chip Supper' (£6.50). Names in advance to Helen Aitken or Jane Stewart.

**REV THOMAS WHITE** Around All Saints recently reference was made to Thomas White's long association with Canongate Kirk from 1886 to 1936. He was buried at the Grange Cemetery on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1936 and this year on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016, almost eighty years to the day, a very short commemoration will be held by his grave at 2pm. Anyone wishing to come will be more than welcome, and encouraged to meet inside the cemetery gates, on Grange Road, just before 2pm.

**CHRISTMAS SUPPER** Looking further into December it's worth noting that the ever popular congregational supper will be held on the evening of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December in the Harry Younger Hall. More details to follow, but worth getting into the diary NOW!

**LIFE AND WORK** In the magazine this month: **The Beauty of Wood** The significance of trees and wood, inside and outside churches. Interview with a chartered forester who plants trees in Africa; **Remembrance** The Moderator of the General Assembly offers a personal perspective on Remembrance, and a Remembrance prayer. Lynne McNeil considers changing attitudes to Remembrance; **From Armenia to Nazareth** Morgan Jamieson highlights the history of EMMS Nazareth, sister organisation of EMMS International, and its humble roots through a young Armenian doctor; **'Go In Joy'** The Guild Gathering in Dundee; **Celebrating Interfaith in Scotland** A preview of Scottish Interfaith Week, November 13-20 Ephraim Borowski, Director of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, considers what it's like to be Jewish in Scotland today; **'Remember Us'** The Rev Jill Clancy and the Rev Bill Taylor look ahead to Prisoners' Week, November 20-27; **Waste and Beauty** The Very Rev Dr James Simpson highlights how love can be wasteful and beautiful.

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### **DUTY ELDERS FOR NOVEMBER**

Stuart McFarlane	Mairead Anderson	Anne Gibson	Roddy Gow
Fiona Grant	Jackie McFarlane	Colin Stewart	Jane Stewart
Robert Watson	Rachel Wright		

### **DUTY ELDERS FOR DECEMBER**

Rie Stevenson	Anne Baker	Gavin Brydone	Kate Church
Anne Croft	Dinah Croy	John Fanning	Etta Geekie

**Minister** The Revd Neil Gardner

556 3515

**Assistant Minister** Mr Peter Sutton

0771 8311319

**Kirk Secretary** Imogen Gibson (office)

556 3515

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