

THE GRAPEVINE

CRAMOND KIRK MAGAZINE

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020

Issue 114

www.cramondkirk.org.uk



Our Minister is retiring

Doors opening and closing. Opportunities quashed and new ones arising. Recent months have brought this aplenty. Now our Minister, against many odds, has prized the doors of the kirk wide open he has decide to close the door of the Manse.

Dr Barr sent a major tremor through the Elders and congregation last week when the news broke of his retirement come the end of October. Good wishes are flooding in but the void his departure produces will be huge. He is immensely respected not just here in Cramond but in the wider church both nationally and internationally. He has worked with government and non-governmental offices on the priorities homelessness, and there are few in our community that have not heard or spoken with him or been in receipt of his pastoral care. Dr Barr's self-less generosity to others has miraculously not aged him as it would have others, and we can bear no grudge that he moves into retirement able to improve that golf handicap that was put on hold many decades ago. I hope everyone will join us in congratulating Dr Barr on his extremely well earned retirement and, when restrictions allow, will help in celebrating his ministry.

Our thanks, blessing and prayers are with Russell and Margaret in this time of great change.

Edith Butler
Session Clerk

Doors Opening

As lockdown eased, the Kirk doors were opened again on 26th July, after months of closure, the first in 700 years. It was the first Church to re-open in Edinburgh if not Scotland, and one of very few to be open at present.

A great deal of teamwork, planning and paperwork was led by Very Rev Russell Barr. Permissions were granted from the Church of Scotland ensuring the environment would be safe for all in the current circumstances. A huge thank you goes to Louise Madeley - Kirk Secretary, David Haggarty - Beadle of the Kirk, Edith Butler Session Clerk, and many, many others.

Angela says of the first service : "it was indeed a lovely service - but things just seem surreal - I miss singing the beautiful hymns, but it was so lovely to see people I've not seen in months and to see the Kirk through new eyes. It was also lovely to meet Ian Gilmour, the new Associate Minister and offer him a virtual hand of friendship."

While doors were closed, the Kirk Halls improvements have progressed steadily with replacement windows and insulation being installed and new toilets. A defibrillator cabinet will be installed at the door to the halls. Parishioners have been grateful.

VIRTUAL CHURCH

www.facebook.com/cramondkirk2

Every Sunday

Morning Worship 10am

And available thereafter to watch anytime

Daily Devotions

Monday - Saturday on Facebook

And on "video" page of

www.cramondkirk.org.uk

Pause for thought

Thursdays

Live on Facebook 7.15pm Thursdays

CRAMOND KIRK IS NOW OPEN FOR WORSHIP

There are 2 short services, 10am, doors open 9.45am, and 11.15am

Each service is limited to 50 people, due to social distancing rules, so pre-booking is necessary.

To book a place please call the Kirk Office on 336 2036 9am - 12 noon (Mon - Fri), or email:

cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk

Leave your name, contact number and the date and time of the service you wish to attend.

Cramond Kirk plans to take part in this year's "Virtual" Doors Open Day Edinburgh's annual event which is your chance to explore some architecturally and culturally significant buildings for free. 26th and 27th September 2020 will be a digital festival. A short video of the Kirk building and its history is currently in production for this. <http://www.cockburnassociation.org.uk/edinburgh-doors-open-day/>

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FreshStart

helping people make a home for themselves

FRESH START, the charity which supports the homeless and their journey into their first tenancies, are now able to accept limited donations. These are the things they need and can accept at present:

- cutlery
- pots & pans
- mugs
- small electrical items

- tumblers
- side plates
- dinner plates
- soup/cereal bowls

- shampoo
- deodorant
- soap
- shower gel

- toilet cleaner
- washing up liquid
- bleach
- anti-bacterial sprays

If you would like to support Fresh Start in this way, you can leave donations in the box outside the Manse front door at 16 Cramond Glebe Road. Any deliveries to the Fresh Start offices can only be made by appointment.

Parish Register



New Members Joining By Certificate

12 June Maureen Thorburn
29 June Sheila Blackie

Wedding

22 Aug Christy O'Donnell to Victoria Bull

Deaths

9 June Kirsteen Millar
14 June John Muir
22 June Andrew Simpson
26 June Andrew Renton
14 July Reverend Professor Bill Shaw
29 July Peter Adams
24 July Eunice (Joy) Howe
12 Aug Martha Black
16 Aug Neville Belton



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FROM THE MANSE



With Cramond Kirk standing on a site which has been a place of Christian worship since the 6th Century AD, and with the oldest part of the present building dating from the 15th century, and with a history of ministers extending back to the Reformation, it was painful beyond words to have it closed during the lockdown.

So when the opportunity presented itself to re-open the sanctuary for private prayer we created a small team of people with the necessary skills to attend to the paper work, check the buildings, complete the risk analysis, mark out one-way systems, close of pews, remove Bibles and hymn books, arrange for hand sanitizer and face masks to be available, create a booking system for track and trace purposes and write up appropriate protocols for re-opening the church.

The BBC heard about the plans we were making and came to interview me on two occasions for Good Morning Scotland and Reporting Scotland.

With the protocols approved by the Kirk Session and Presbytery, the church opened for prayer for two hours on a Wednesday evening and also on a Sunday morning.

Thankfully everything went well, people attending felt safe, and so when permission was given to open for worship services with limited numbers, we realised we would need to hold two services on a Sunday to accommodate the number of people who wanted to attend.

We have now been open for worship services since the end of July with 50 people attending either service, and although with social distancing, face masks and no hymns or choir it does not feel as though we are back to normal, it has been wonderful to be able to meet again for public worship.

I was also privileged to conduct the wedding service of Christy O'Donnell and Victoria Ball on a sunny August Saturday, and I am looking forward to celebrating Lily Reid's baptism in September.

Meanwhile the online daily devotions, Sunday service and Children's Church which have attracted a large and international audience continue to be broadcast on Facebook and on the Kirk's website.

However as the church door has opened again, I realise the time has come for me to take my leave of Cramond and I will retire at the end of October.

Since my appointment in 1993 it has been the privilege of a life time to be the minister of Cramond Kirk.

These years have been some of the most challenging and rewarding of my life, and as well as being fully involved in the life of the congregation and community, they have allowed me to represent the Church of Scotland at home and abroad.

Margaret and I could not have been happier living in

the Manse and it will always hold special memories for us and our family

With my 67th birthday in mid-October, a fresh face and a fresh outlook is required to make the most of the opportunities and new patterns of church life which will emerge from these lockdown weeks and months.

Of this much I am quite sure however, whatever the opportunities and challenges which the coming months brings, God's presence, promise and purpose will continue to flourish at Cramond Kirk.

PRAYER

God of hidden treasures
for the gift of life
and for all that makes life worth living
for the faith You have awakened within us
and for our belonging to the world wide
family of the church
we thank You

Teach us to find Your kingdom
in unexpected places
and among unexpected people
and through the values to which we aspire
and the quality of our relationships
with one another
help us pass on to others the hope and
promise of the gospel

God of healing
as the coronavirus pandemic
continues to leave a trail of misery
and death in its wake
we thank You for health workers and
care workers tending people who are ill
for scientists working on a vaccination
for researchers analyzing data
and pray their efforts will succeed

As lockdown restrictions are eased
teach us to be wise and careful
stewards of creation
and renew our determination
to build a world where justice prevails
peace reclaims the streets
children are educated and properly fed
and Your kingdom comes
through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

CRAMOND WOODLANDS - THE NAMING OF TREES



The woodlands by Cramond Kirk contain an abundance of fine trees. Once a Victorian designed landscape and arboretum, Cramond Association's Woodlands Group has been tackling its neglected state and has now labelled 74 trees of special interest. Black plaques have been engraved with each tree's common and botanical name, its approximate year of origin, and its 'CP' number, where present. This is a reference number in the tree survey conducted in 2003 in the City Council's *Historic Cramond Conservation Management and Interpretation Plan*. In a few cases other comment is added.

The dominant tree is the sycamore and we have some mighty veterans, c270-370 years old, amongst the oldest in Britain. There is one such on the village green at Tolpuddle in Dorset, sitting under which the six 'martyrs' are pictured in broadsheets supporting their release from their sentence in 1834 to penal servitude in Australia.

We have some endangered conifers: three giant Sequoias, a coast redwood, a dawn redwood, an Atlantic cedar (var. 'glauca', with beautiful blue-green needles) and a monkey-puzzle tree. None of these is native to Britain: trees which naturally colonised these islands prior to the formation of the English Channel. Only three conifers are: the Scots pine, yew and juniper. Cramond has plenty yews and two Scots pine. Giant Sequoias were introduced into England in 1853 and called Wellingtonia in homage to the Duke of Wellington, one giant called after another. They are

the largest living organisms. Dawn redwoods were just discovered in 1941, in China, previously known only from fossilized specimens. They are deciduous conifers and a beautiful sight at Dawyck in the Autumn.

Our monkey-puzzle (Chilean pine), we rescued from imminent death, choked by weeds. Its botanical name is *Araucaria araucana*, after the Aracaunos, indigenous people of the Andes, whose diet was based on the tree's seeds. Some years after it was introduced into Britain around 1800, someone remarked: "It would puzzle a monkey to climb that", hence its name. Ours is one of a number of exotic trees planted in 2005 in what I call our mini-arboretum, through which we've created a little path. Paths have also been opened-up to other trees.

There are some lovely specimens, particularly those veteran sycamores, the magnificent lime trees on the lawn between the Kirk and the Kirk Hall, mature deodar cedars and Corsican pines, and a superb spreading chestnut-tree under which Longfellow's 'Village Blacksmith' could have stood.

Take a look. Our hope is that naming these trees will increase the pleasure of a walk among them. We envisage children's games: "See how many sycamores you can find", "Spot the two giant Sequoias and their little baby", "How many different cedar trees are there?", and so on. And we will be planting some new trees in the Autumn.

Dr Stefan Slater



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INTRODUCING IAN GILMOUR



We recently welcomed Rev Ian Gilmour to Cramond Kirk as Associate Minister. There is a long happy shared history between Ian and our minister Very Rev Dr Russell Barr.

They met in 1978, when Russell was asked to guide Ian, when Russell was a very young Minister at Garthamlock and Craigend East Church. They each went on to have children who share the same birthday, one year apart. The children of both families have stayed close friends all their lives, as they all studied at St Andrews University together.

Ian hails from Millerston in Lanarkshire near Hogganfield Loch off the Cumbernauld Road out of Glasgow. He studied at Glasgow University and was a probationer with Russell.

For 10 years he was minister at Drylaw Church, followed by 15 years at South Leith Parish Church and then to St Andrews & St Georges West Church in George Street Edinburgh.

He took some time out to write about a subject he is passionate about, slavery and song, before taking up an overseas assignment with the Church of Scotland in Sri Lanka.

Sadly that assignment was cut short due to the COVID 19 pandemic, with curfews and lockdowns and

quarantines starting, he chose to return to Scotland to be close to his family in the uncertain months ahead. "My wife Donna had come home for a wedding in March and there was a risk would be apart for a very long time. I am delighted to be back in Edinburgh as my two daughters live here in Cammo and Portobello."

As well as his family and dear grandchildren, Ian is passionate about music and sport. He enjoys listening to Jazz, walking and plays a very erratic game of golf.

"I am very much looking forward to getting to know everyone at Cramond Kirk," he says. "The Elders and the members of the church, and to working with Russell again, in the final stages of his Ministry at Cramond."

A Gift of Friendship

Friendship is a priceless gift that cannot be bought or sold but its value is far greater than a mountain made of gold.

For gold is cold and lifeless it can neither see nor hear and in the time of trouble it is powerless to cheer.

It has no ears to listen no heart to understand it cannot bring you comfort or reach out a helping hand.

So when you ask God for a gift be thankful if he sends, not Diamonds, Pearls or riches but the love of a real true friend.

By Angela Henson

Dedicated to Margaret Fotheringham by her brother David and to everyone else we have lost during Lockdown. Margaret's birthday would have been this month, and David wanted everyone to enjoy this poem.

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IAIN MAJCHER – MOVING ON



We welcomed Iain to Cramond Kirk as Assistant Minister over a year ago. With his probationary period having been sustained, Iain is eligible to apply for his own charge and Iain has been appointed Minister Elect to Bothwell Parish Church.

Iain studied at New College Edinburgh, then completed placements at Craigsbank Church Corstorphine, NHS Faith and Palmerston Place. He then worked as a locum at Liberton Northfield before coming to Cramond Kirk.

“I am now in the last days of my training,” he said. “Supervised by Russell. I now have the chance to spread my wings and try my own thing. Cramond appealed to me as “in the city” of Edinburgh, but it’s much more of a village here.”

“I was attracted to work here, for many reasons not least because of Russell’s connection with the

homeless charity Fresh Start and the valuable work it does in North Edinburgh. Having worked in the homeless sector before embarking on my ministry training I was drawn to exploring how we can ‘be’ church for the whole city working with other ecumenical partners. Russell has been a tremendous Supervisor and has encouraged me to be myself, throughout my time he has encouraged me to find my own voice. He has helped me to visit some interesting places during my training. I visited HMP Edinburgh and attended other meetings. There is an openness to try things at Cramond and no fear of failure if it doesn’t work first time.”

“One of the things I have really enjoyed, is the Pop Up Café. It’s a way for us to do our missionary work not within the Kirk itself – I meet mums and grandads as they ferry youngsters to Playgroup and Toddlers, and I get to talk to them, or people coming to

a pilates class. It’s not about getting people to church on a Sunday, but about meeting them where they are and worshipping wherever you are.”

Iain has been instrumental in Cramond Kirk’s journey into the digital world “I concentrated on Facebook and wrote social media protocol to ensure we were singing from the same hymn sheet!”

“COVID has been a blessing and a curse and I never ever want to repeat it, ever. But its thrust our church into the 21st century. A year ago, if we had asked about running an “online church” folks would have laughed and said it will never happen. It’s not going to replace church but we need to embrace it and use it. It’s going to take a very long time till we get everyone back into buildings and to large gatherings.

“We will continue with the best bits of “online” if someone is scrolling through their mobile phone, they might join us to worship on Daily Devotions. Huge numbers of people have been watching us online, across wide range of ages, and all over the world. Our Parish has quite literally grown. Not just next door, but reaching out to anyone in the world. And perhaps surprisingly, we are reaching an older age group too, in their eighties or nineties, joining us online. And those who have maybe had very little contact with the church.”

We wish Iain and his family God’s richest blessing as he moves to his own parish and thank him most sincerely for his time with us at Cramond Kirk.

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THE TURI CHILDREN'S PROJECT

works to improve the lives of children in the village of Turi, in Kenya



Turi Children's Project
Providing a hope and a future

Their work continues despite Covid-19 and the closure of all schools until January 2021. Thanks to the generosity of its supporters, donations have enabled TCP to purchase essentials like food, soap and face masks and each month they run a collection day to ensure over 75 families, whose children would normally receive meals at the Project, receive a care package. If you would like to read TCP's July newsletter, it can be found on the Kirk website at: www.cramondkirk.org.uk under "What's On - Newsletters & Updates from Partner Organisations".

Over past few years Cramond Kirk has raised funds in order to make regular payments to the project. Donations will be gratefully received to keep this fund afloat until such time as we can organise more events. If you wish to contribute please either forward a cheque made payable to "Cramond Kirk" to the kirk office indicating it is for the Turi Childrens Project, or make an on-line payment to our account: Cramond Kirk, sort code 80-02-19 and account number 00185768 with the reference "Turi".



AUGUST WORD CHALLENGE

All the answers have 'AUG' in them

1. Female relative (8)
2. Air current (7)
3. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory character (8,5)
4. Instructed (6)
5. English composer 1872-1958 (5,7,8)
6. Disobedient (7)
7. Ceremony of commencement (12)
8. Dismissal in cricket (6)
9. Giggle (5)
10. Increase (7)
11. Cooked with covering of breadcrumbs or cheese (2,6)
12. A standard of measure (5)

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NEW WELLBEING LINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

As a result of the impact of COVID-19, young people aged 16 to 25 are a particularly at-risk group with new mental health support needs. The significance of how we support them during this period will be long lasting for their future wellbeing and resilience.

Health in Mind has been awarded funding from the Wellbeing Fund to provide a one-to-one mental health and wellbeing service for young people aged 16 to 25 living in the Lothians and the Scottish Borders.

Young people can call Health in Mind's Wellbeing Line and speak to someone about the impact Covid-19 has had on their lives. It's a Freephone number 0808 801 0614 and it is open 2pm to 6pm Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays and 11am to 3pm at the weekend.

According to recent evidence, more than 80% of young people with a history of mental health difficulties have reported their conditions have worsened and a number have seen their existing peer support groups and face-to-face support stop.

Martin Oxley, Health in Mind's Depute Chief Executive, said: 'We are very pleased to receive the funding to support this important work. COVID-19 and the present restrictions on day to day life are directly responsible for new and changing needs, leaving young people with increased support requirements around coping with change, loss, isolation, structure of days, having a purpose, and long term vision. We look forward to supporting people and enabling them to make a positive difference in their lives.'

www.health-in-mind.org.uk

DIGITAL FLOWS BACK TO PRINT

When lockdown was upon us, we decided to increase the frequency of Grapevine to fortnightly, from quarterly, in an attempt to keep our community informed and together through challenging times. As we could not deliver door to door, we took to digital editions. We are so grateful to the number of local organisations who offered to help us distribute Grapevine during these times so we could reach as many members of the community as possible. From the Cramond Boat Club, to the Friends of the River Almond Walkway, from the committee at Fair a Far Estate, to friends in Caer Amon and many many others. To each and all, a huge thank you.

As we are able to slip back through your letterboxes, we thought we should share with you some of the highlights of the last 7 editions since March, in case you didn't receive these, and to let you know they are all available to read if you download Grapevines from the Cramond Kirk Website <https://cramondkirk.org.uk/grapevine-on-the-web>

Going digital enabled us to reach some new readers, much further away and overseas.

In April - we featured an interview with A&E consultant Alan Steedman one of our Church Elders about what it was like on the frontline within the NHS at the peak of COVID19. In May - we interviewed parishioners who had lived through VE Day in Edinburgh and were able to share their memories with us, including Professor Rev Bill Shaw who sadly passed away recently. He recounted playing truant from school (Edinburgh Academy!) to be on the pavements of Princes Street to watch the celebrations with his pals. We carried an interview with Zoo Vet Dr Georgina Cole. And we learned how demand for tomato plants to support Christian Aid week had grown exponentially as everyone took to their gardens during lockdown. In June we shared the amazing things some of our youngsters had been doing to keep busy and active when home schooling.

We encouraged you all to stay fit and healthy with some wonderful exercise

suggestions to do at home, from Pilates teacher Jane Robson. The Church took quickly to Facebook for Sunday services and Daily Devotions and Bible Study. All enjoyed large followers. We saw Cramond Volunteers Facebook Group launch and grow rapidly to provide support during COVID under the leadership of volunteer Michael Heffron. We enjoyed some lovely articles about our local wildlife and flowers from members of FRAW. Gillian Massie provided us with some amazing word puzzles which she makes up herself. Any worries of finding content to fill 8 pages were soon washed away with a myriad of lovely ideas and stories coming from all corners of our vibrant community.

We bid a fond farewell to Associate Minister Rev Tom Cuthell as he retired, and to Assistant Minister Stanley Okeke who completed his time with us. Dr Suresh Sanders one of our elders offered advice on how to keep your sanity during lockdown offering advice from her grandfather, starting with keeping to a routine.

We heard from Fresh Start about their challenges in a time when they couldn't depend on voluntary donations of goods and cash to help the homeless in Lockdown - with food banks.

GARDEN OF DAILY LIVING

**First, plant three rows of peas:
Peace of mind, Peace of heart,
Peace of soul.**

**Next, plant three rows of
lettuce:**

**Lettuce be faithful,
Lettuce be patient,
Lettuce love one another.**

**Complete the operation
by planting:**

**Thyme for each other,
Thyme for family,
Thyme for friends.**

AUGUST WORD CHALLENGE ANSWERS

1. DAUGHTER 2. DRAUGHT 3. AUGUSTUS GLOOP 4. TAUGHT 5. RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS 6. NAUGHTY
7. INAUGURATION 8. CAUGHT 9. LAUGH 10. AUGMENT 11. AU GRATIN 12. GAUGE

A special thank you to all the local membership organisations who have helped us to get the digital editions of Grapevine out to everyone during "lockdown".

Your editor Carol Anderson • Contact us: cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk