

The Church of Scotland
PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH
Cramond Parish Church

April 2016
Updated to March 2018

LOCAL
CHURCH
REVIEW
**ACTION
PLAN**

1. Congregational Action Plan

In all that we do here in Presbytery, mission is important to us. We want you to explore together under each heading aims and objectives for your congregation over a five year period. Once you have set your aims and objectives, tell us how these might be tackled and the timeframe for achieving them. It is important that you look at the resources required and any help you may need, this could be from neighbouring congregations, or Presbytery. This is a five year plan and we would expect to see a programme spanning this.

In the planning, we would like you to think backwards. We would like you to think not about where you are now and where you might go, but about where you would like to be, and how you might get there.

The Local Church Review is first and foremost, a local review. It is to do with your parish and the people you serve, not about the sort of church you think you ought to be, but about the sort of church your area needs. As a Presbytery, it helps us explore together how every congregation does the same things in their own way. The LCR process helps us to see how congregations achieve their aims and objectives, and this report is a first step on a journey, and in some areas, the continuation of a journey in other plans.

A plan of thought and action – where would you like to be, and how might you get there?

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1.1 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Worship** initiatives.

Response:

Plan: to maintain the high standard of music at Cramond Kirk by continuing to encourage good singers in the congregation to join the choir and to supplement their numbers with the voices of professional singers.

Our choir was invited to sing at the General Assembly evening worship service on 21 May 2016.

Our Organist and Choirmaster Alistair Hair retired on 15 January 2017 and his successor Simon Bertram started on 16 January 2017. We are conscious of our good fortune in acquiring another highly skilled musician.

Under Simon's leadership, we continue to enjoy wonderful music during morning worship.

Plan: to create more opportunities for young people to participate in worship. This could include further development of the youth orchestra, inviting Sunday Club members to assist the duty elders in welcoming people to Sunday Services and encouraging youngsters' current participation at baptisms, youth services and Advent services.

Our Sunday Club Band contributes to our worship through music about once a month and performed a medley at the reception to mark Alistair's retirement.

During baptisms, Sunday Club members continue to welcome the babies on behalf of the congregation and to present them with their baptismal certificates and posies of flowers.

During morning worship in 2017 we enjoyed performances by several young soloists from the Sunday Club. The Band continues to grow in numbers and in confidence. It now features violins, cellos, flute, clarsach, clarinet and guitar.

On Sunday 28 January we marked the start of 2018- The Year of Young People with a special service. Members of our Sunday Club and some of our young adults contributed greatly by leading the prayers, readings, acting a sketch and giving solo performances on the violin, classical guitar and cello. Very Rev Dr Barr invited several to share their ideas about faith and church. Members of the congregation were invited to sign up to the Charter for Children and Young People in Cramond Kirk.

At our main Communion Service in February 2017, for the first time several of the older children received Communion, with bread and non-alcoholic wine being served to them.

Plan: To look at new ways of worshipping, building on the success of the intimate Sunday Morning Prayers services and midweek services with Almond Mains and the Church Visiting Team.

1.2 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Evangelism** initiatives.

Response:

Plan: to encourage people who have not worshipped in church for some time to return. This is being addressed by another series of "Back to Church" Sundays during 2016, when members are encouraged to invite friends, family, neighbours and others, to join them at Sunday worship.

CK took part in the Back to Church national campaign, running four events each in 2014/15 and 2015/16, ending in spring 2016.

Cramond Kirk took part in Edinburgh Doors Open Day on 23 September 2017.

Plan: to develop the opportunity of reaching out to the parents and other adults at the Annual Youth Service and at School Services (Cramond Primary and Cargilfield.) As well as ensuring that people feel welcome and encouraging a wish to return, this will be achieved by providing appropriate information on the variety of activities and opportunities for children and young people to become involved in the life of Cramond Kirk.

During 2017-2018, we have been developing our use of social media to engage with more people. The Kirk's website has been enhanced and Twitter (@cramondkirk1) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/cramondkirk2) have been introduced to the site, with the help of two of the younger members of the congregation.

Plan: to work at sustaining the high number of children of all ages attending Sunday Club. This will be achieved by encouraging the parents of recently baptised children to return to the Kirk and bring the children, too.

Plan: to make contact with people in the new housing developments in the area, including retirement properties and care homes, and encourage their involvement in the life of the Church.

In 2017, the Minister and one of our Elders, who is also Chair of the Almond Mains Initiative, each paid a visit to The Cramond Residence which is a large new care home being built near the church. It is due to open in the summer of 2018. The members of its management team are keen to ensure that their future residents become integrated into the local community, including the Kirk.

The Minister undertakes services regularly in Lyle Court, another large property developed for older members of the community, where several members of our congregation are resident.

1.3 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Service** initiatives.

Response:

Plan: to raise awareness in the congregation and the community of the work undertaken by members of the Visiting Team in order to increase the numbers of visits to housebound or isolated people.

Plan: to make our worship and our properties more accessible to people with dementia and their carers. This will be achieved by liaising more closely with the Monday Café for people with dementia and their carers (who meet in the Halls once a month) and with members of the Almond Mains Initiative (who

meet in the Halls twice a week.

After taking professional advice on making our properties more welcoming for people with dementia and their carers, for the past three years we have been implementing the recommended changes to lighting, signage, colour contrast between walls and floors, accessibility of toilets etc as part of our ongoing property maintenance programme.

Plan: to facilitate attendance at church by people who no longer drive. This could be addressed by exploring ways of organising transport to Sunday Worship and other church activities.

In 2016 Cramond Kirk received a generous legacy which is to be used to benefit elderly parishioners. It has been proposed that some of the money could meet their costs of transportation to and from church.

Plan: to extend the distribution of Sunday Services on CD for elderly, housebound and visually impaired people in the wider parish community, through contacts with the Barnton and Cramond Community Council, the Cramond Association and the local District Nurse Team.

1.4 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Discipleship** initiatives.

Response:

Plan: to develop the programme of the annual Kirk Session Seminars. Topics will be chosen to help elders to carry out their duties. Members of the congregation with a particular interest in the subject will also be made welcome. On 6 March 2016 we had the first of what is hoped will be a series of presentations given by lecturers from New College, Edinburgh. On 20 March 2016, 24 elders attended Kirk Session Safeguarding Training.

The theme for this year's seminar, to be led by Rev Scott McKenna on 19 March 2017, is "The most important journey in life is the inner journey: pathways in spirituality." Members of the congregation will be invited to join members of Session for Rev Scott's presentation.

This Seminar was an inspiring and uplifting experience.

The theme for the Seminar held on 18 March 2018 was "The Year of Young People." The guest speaker was the Church of Scotland's Children's Development Worker Isobel Booth- Clibborn. Members of Session also welcomed contributions from some of the young people in the congregation.

During October 2016, some members of Session and our Beadle/ Properties Manager refreshed their skills in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and the use of

our defibrillator. Others took part in Safeguarding training event run by Presbytery.

Another CPR and defibrillator training session, led by a member of the Scottish Ambulance Service and a First Responder, was held on 12 July 2017. The Kirk now has a defibrillator in the Session House and another in the Halls. A Rescue Mat has also been purchased, for situations where it is more suitable than our wheelchair to move someone who has become ill.

Plan: to explore vocation and discipleship by developing the use of Bible study and discussion groups for the Kirk Session and congregation.

In the late autumn 2016, our Sunday Club leaders prepared and presented three sessions of Godly Play, aimed at adults. The themes were the Great Family, the Exodus and the Journey to Bethlehem.

1.5 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Fellowship** initiatives.

Response:

Plan: to encourage greater participation in church activities by the children and young adults who use the Kirk Halls as a community resource centre. This will include involving them more in the annual fund raising events such as the Jumble Sale and Christmas Fair. On 12 March 2016, the annual Jumble Sale was opened by the seven year old grandson of the conveners.

In December 2016 the Christmas tree in the Gathering Space in the Hall was beautifully decorated by some of the Guides.

In 2017-2018, closer links have continued to develop with the many Guide and Scout units who use our Halls. One of our Elders and Sunday Club leaders on the Youth Committee is also the Cramond District Commissioner for Girlguiding. The Group Scout Leader has recently been co-opted to the Committee. The Scouts and Guides were involved in the planning and running of the 2017 Christmas Fair.

The annual Youth Service on 18 March 2018 was led by Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and their Senior Section this year.

Plan: We are developing the church's social programme. This has recently included concerts, visits (in 2015 to Abbotsford House) and coffee mornings plus Film and Pizza Evenings for youngsters. A celebratory meal which could be enjoyed by people of all age groups is being considered, in order to encourage fellowship by providing opportunities to mix across demographic and social groups.

Our Social and Music Committee arranged a concert given by the

Edinburgh Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra on 31 March 2017, with a collection being taken for Fresh Start.

On Very Rev Dr Barr's completion of his year as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the congregation enjoyed an interesting and entertaining "Evening with Mr and Mrs ex Moderator and Chaplains" on 23 June 2017.

Our Session Clerk, who is a Garden Guide, led a guided walk round the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on 26 August 2017 for Kirk members.

Movie ("Cars 3" and "Spongebob") and pizza afternoons were organised for young members of the Sunday Club.

"Not another Burns Supper!" on 3 February 2018 was a lively and enjoyable evening which raised over £300 for Edinburgh Street Pastors.

1.6 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop your **relationships with the wider church.**

Response:

Plan: in the worldwide context, we shall support Rev Dr GR Barr in his role as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2016-2017.

Members of the congregation obtained tickets to attend the opening session of the 2016 General Assembly to see Rt Rev Dr Barr being inducted as Moderator. Many also served as Stewards during the Assembly. A young member of our congregation was the Youth Representative of Edinburgh Presbytery.

Our Kirk website has a link to the Moderator's Diary and our weekly Kirk Announcements give a brief resume of the Moderator's recent activities.

The Moderator led our morning services on Sunday 7 August, when he also baptised his baby grandson.

With the particular involvement of the members of the Sunday Club, we are developing our links with the Turi Children's Project in Kenya. It is hoped that Dr Barr may be able to visit the project during his visit to Kenya during his Moderatorial year.

In June 2016, following the Sunday Club Flower Service and Prize giving, there

was a retiring collection for the Turi Children's Project. It will be one of the beneficiaries of the proceeds from the Jumble Sale on 11 March. It is hoped that Rt Rev Dr Barr will visit the TCP in early March 2017.

Very Rev Dr and Mrs Barr visited the Turi Children's Project on 9 March 2017, taking gifts from our congregation. They sent some photographs of the work being undertaken by the pupils and teachers for their community. These were received in time to be displayed in the Halls during the Jumble Sale on 11 March 2017, as part of the money raised was sent to support TCP.

As a congregation, we support Christian Aid and aim to increase the number of people willing to be collectors during Christian Aid week which is due to begin this year on Sunday 15 May. After morning worship there will be a retiring collection and our annual Christian Aid Fair in the Kirk Halls.

Over £7,000 was raised in 2016 for Christian Aid by house to house collections, the Fair and other fund raising activities.

Cramond Kirk members continue to support Christian Aid Week by taking part in house to house collections, a retiring collection, a Fair and other initiatives. In 2017, over £8,000 was raised.

Plan: within Presbytery, we aim to extend our partnership with local churches, including The Old Kirk and Muirhouse and the new City Gates Baptist congregation in Barnton.

At our Christmas Fair on 3 December 2016, The Old Kirk and Muirhouse took a stall to sell craft items as part of their fundraising.

The Old Kirk and Muirhouse Crafting Group accepted an invitation to take part in our Christmas Fair in December 2017 by running a stall, which was very successful They commented that they had found the event very friendly. Members of our congregation supported their Christmas Fair on 18 November 2017.

At the Sunday Club Gift Service on 4 December 2016, children in the Sunday Club brought in toys and games, which were delivered to the Old Kirk and Muirhouse for distribution within their parish.

This initiative was repeated at the Sunday Club Christmas Service on 10 December 2017.

In December 2017, along with the Ministers and families from Drylaw and the Old Kirk & Muirhouse, we held a Christmas Club for primary school aged children in our Kirk Halls. The event was funded by a grant of £250 from the Presbytery of Edinburgh's Mission Fund.

Plan: within the city of Edinburgh, we propose to continue our established work, in conjunction with other churches and partner organisations, in support of Fresh Start.

After our Harvest Service on 2 October 2016, more than forty bags of tins, jars and packets of food were delivered to Fresh Start.

In 2017, following our Harvest Service, two carloads of food donations were taken to Fresh Start.

Fresh Start and the Scottish Refugee Council were beneficiaries of the 2016 Christmas Fair. The Sunday Club are holding the Great Cramond Bake Off once a month from January to June 2017, with the beneficiaries of the cake sales being the Scottish Refugee Council.

Fresh Start was one of the beneficiaries of the 2017 Christmas Fair and of the Jumble Sale held on 10 March 2018.

1.7 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new ways to equip your **ministry team** and encourage more people to take up **leadership roles**.

Response:

Plan: to continue to offer a welcoming and nurturing environment for student Ministers. In addition to continuing to provide a support group for each student, this will be achieved by friendly interest and encouragement of their professional and personal development while they are at Cramond.

Our Probationer Assistant Minister, Louise Mackay, completed her time with us on 31 October 2016. On 27 November Louise preached as Sole Nominee at St Nicholas Parish Church, Lanark and was accepted as their new Minister. A coachful of people from Cramond Kirk attended Louise's Service of Ordination and Induction on 12 January 2017.

During Very Rev Dr Barr's 15 months' away on Moderatorial duties in 2016-2017, our Ministry Team comprised Rev Tom Cuthell as Locum Minister, Rev Colin Douglas our Associate Minister as Interim Moderator and Rev Louise Mackay until October 2016. We welcomed back Dr Barr in June 2017.

Colin demitted office as our Associate Minister on 31 December 2017 after seven years in post.

We were pleased to welcome back Tom in January 2018 as our Associate Minister.

Plan: to offer encouragement and training to members of Session, especially new Elders, and others to develop roles which will support their greater involvement in Kirk life.

In addition to fulfilling their roles as District Elders and taking part in the Sunday duty rota, the Elders who were most recently ordained (in

2016) are demonstrating their involvement and leadership skills in various ways. These include taking responsibility for assisting the Minister at Communion during Morning Prayers, compiling our monthly Prayer Diary, organising our Christmas Fair and the Jumble Sale and taking on the convenership of a Session Committee.

Plan: to encourage members of the congregation to become leaders in the Sunday Club and also in the many youth organisations which meet in our Halls.

- 1.8** Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new initiatives to maintain and enhance your **property/properties** so that they better support the delivery of your mission and vision.

Response:

Plan: to instruct a professional inspection and opinion in order to ascertain the condition of the roof of the main hall (which is currently watertight) and to establish the nature and extent of any remedial work required. Obtaining this report has been approved by Kirk Session and the brief is currently (April 2016) being drafted for consideration by the Buildings Committee at its next meeting in May 2016.

Preparation of the brief has been delayed and will be progressed in 2017.

The preparation of the brief has been rescheduled for 2018.

Plan: to explore the development of a Memorial Garden. This initiative is at a very early stage, with Kirk Session having asked the Buildings Committee to explore options with a view to identifying the most appropriate way forward. It is estimated that all the spaces for interment of ashes at the most recently installed (January 2015) Memorial Stone will have been purchased by the end of 2017.

The Kirk Session approved the creation of a Memorial Garden in the front garden of the Manse. This is being taken forward. The rate of take up of the spaces at the last memorial stone is such that we should have until 2018 to get the new garden in place.

The places at the most recently installed Memorial Stone had all been reserved by the end of 2017. Work is continuing to explore the most appropriate ways of recording the names of deceased members and providing a resting place for ashes.

Plan: to consider installing a glass screen under the North Gallery at the back of the church, to encourage use of this area as a gathering space. This project will be explored and the Buildings Committee will present options to Kirk Session in

2019.

The Buildings Committee has appointed a sub-committee to take this forward. Initial steps are being taken to identify churches which have installed glass screens.

1.9 Tell us what plans you have to promote **stewardship**.

Response:

Plan: to regard stewardship as active and positive, making best use of people's time and talents as well as raising money.

This will be achieved by

1. having a "Time and Talents" review to identify abilities within the congregation and encourage members to use them in church activities
2. having a "Recommitment Sunday" to remind Elders and other members of the congregation of their responsibilities as church members

The Kirk Session has agreed that we should begin our stewardship campaign in autumn 2017.

Because the Kirk's financial situation was better than expected for the year ending 31 December 2017, the Stewardship campaign is now scheduled to begin during 2018.

Plan: to increase the number of members using Gift Aid.

This will be achieved by the use of a redrafted (in 2015) welcome letter to new members, encouraging them to contribute using Gift Aid and by systematically reviewing the manner of giving by members who have joined within the past five years, with the aim of encouraging more of them to give using Gift Aid.

The proportion of regular givers donating by direct transfers from their bank is increasing when compared with givers donating by cash via free will offering envelopes.

1.10 Tell us what plans you have in support of the **Plan for Presbytery**.

Response:

"A Plan for Presbytery 2012-2022" sets out Cramond Kirk's mission priorities:
Families with children,

The elderly and isolated,

Support of the community inside and outside the congregation.

Plans: Please refer to our responses in sections 1.1 to 1.9.

1.11 Tell us what plans you have to sustain and improve how you **communicate**.

Response:

Plan: to develop and implement a communications strategy. This will be achieved by the current review of the Kirk's website (cramondkirk.org.uk) and promotional material in the Kirk and Halls, to assess their fitness for purpose. Making use of both modern and traditional methods of communication will be considered, to ensure that all members of the congregation can be made aware of what's happening.

An outline communications strategy is nearing completion and will be ready for discussion by Kirk Session in the summer of 2016 and then the congregation later in 2016.

The Communications Strategy has been completed and has been adopted by Kirk Session on behalf of the congregation.

The Strategy is being implemented. The Christmas Fair team made use of Social Media to publicise the Fair. There is now a continuous Twitter feed on our website and a link to the news section of the Church of Scotland website. A link to the "Just Giving" website is being explored. We continue to post audio sermons. We now have a new mobile friendly website for users with mobile devices such as phones or iPads.

1.12 Any other **actions/goals/aims** you would like to share?

To continue to be a vibrant, welcoming and outward-looking congregation, committed to the service of Christ's kingdom.

CK took part in the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office "Meet your MSP" project. The Constituency MSP for Edinburgh West, Alex Cole-Hamilton, joined us for morning worship on 14 August 2016. He gave a short presentation and talked with members of the congregation at coffee after the Service.

At his request, Alex also joined us on Remembrance Sunday in 2016, when he laid a wreath at our War Memorial on behalf of the Scottish Parliament.

During 2017, we were particularly pleased to welcome several young people who were admitted as members by profession of faith.

