

# THE GRAPEVINE

CRAMOND KIRK MAGAZINE



AUTUMN 2021

Issue 121

[www.cramondkirk.org.uk](http://www.cramondkirk.org.uk)



## Cramond Commemorates

COVID-19 has inflicted pain and loss on many lives through illness and death, and the accompanying social isolation and restrictions have taken their toll on all ages. In recognition of this a group of local representatives is working to enhance our community by planting trees and bulbs as focal points for remembrance and symbols of renewal. Cramond Primary school will introduce more trees to the school grounds, and to launch our project a single tree of remembrance will be planted outside Cramond Kirk Halls in early November. As the project rolls out we hope to involve families, individuals and groups, from throughout the community, in providing trees for public spaces and gardens. Information on how to

participate will be publicised in coming weeks and if you wish to contact the group please email [cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone 336 2036. It is envisaged that bulbs might cost £2 and trees £20. We are grateful for all who are supporting us, including the City of Edinburgh Council and are pleased to be running alongside their Million Tree City project.

Stuart Richardson,  
Commemoration Project Convener.

### A Tree Blessing

Keep the root of my life well nourished  
The trunk of my life stable and strong  
My branches stretching upwards and outwards  
Yearning to reach new heights.

## Cramond Kirk Christmas Fair is back!

Our Christmas Fair will be held in the Kirk Halls on Saturday 4 December 2021 from 11:30am until 2pm.

Please come along and enjoy visiting the stalls, including Collectors' Corner, Cake and Candy, Craft, Children's Toys, Tombolas, Toiletries, Hampers, CDs and DVDs and a

Christmas stocking filler stall. Teas, coffees and light refreshments will be available.

Donations of wine or beer would be welcome for the Tombola. If you are donating items to the Toiletries or Stocking Fillers stalls, please ensure that these are new and preferably in their original wrapping. Baked goods and sweets for the Cake and Candy stall must be wrapped and labelled.

Please note that we are unable to accept card payments at the Fair.

## KIRK OPEN

### Every Sunday

Morning Prayers - 8.45 am  
Morning Worship - 10 am  
1m social distancing remains and booking through the Kirk Office is advisable.

## VIRTUAL CHURCH

[www.facebook.com/cramondkirk2](https://www.facebook.com/cramondkirk2)

### Daily Devotions

Mondays and Friday – online at  
[www.facebook.com/cramondkirk2](https://www.facebook.com/cramondkirk2)



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Sunday, 28 November – Advent 1

8.45 am : Morning Prayers  
10.00 am : Morning Worship

### Sunday, 5 December – Advent 2

8.45 am : Morning Prayers with Communion  
10.00 am : Morning Worship

This is our annual Gift Service so all are welcome to bring unwrapped toys for children at the Old Kirk & Muirhouse, either to the Kirk on the Sunday morning or to the Kirk Office any weekday morning

### Sunday, 12 December - Advent 3

8.45 am : Morning Prayers  
10.00 am : Morning Worship

### Friday, 17 December

6.00 pm : Carols at Cramond

### Sunday, 19 December – Advent 4

8.45 am : Morning Prayers  
10.00 am : Sunday Club Nativity Service

### Christmas Eve

6.00 pm : Christingle Service  
11.30 pm : Watchnight Service

### Christmas Day

10.00 am : Morning Worship

### Sunday, 26 December

8.45 am : Morning Prayers  
10.00 am : Morning Worship

Read more: [www.cramondkirk.org.uk](http://www.cramondkirk.org.uk) . Deadline for next issue 16th January 2022 T: 0131 336 2036  

# Christmas Hampers



To enter the draw for a hamper, for a donation of £5 you will receive two chances to win a hamper as well as a copy of the Christmas quiz. Donations can be made by popping your money into an envelope with your name and contact details, including email address if you have one. Please also write "Hamper Draw" on the outside of the envelope, which can be handed into the Kirk Office (now in the Kirk Halls) or placed in one of the donation boxes in the Kirk. There is also a hamper donation button on the home page of the Kirk website at [www.cramondkirk.org.uk](http://www.cramondkirk.org.uk)

If you are able to donate a hamper or goods please contact Gena Wylie on 0131 312 897 or email [cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk).

## Parish Register

### BAPTISMS

19 Sept James Robertson  
Davies  
26 Sept Alfred Paul Summers  
Davies

### WEDDINGS

28 Aug Charles Carter to  
Kirstie Davidson  
18 Sept Michael Brown to  
Carmen Carmona

### DEATHS

14 Sept Anne Brown  
28 Sept Jack McKellar  
2 Oct James Rodgers  
3 Oct Pat Bertram

# Christmas Tree Festival

After its great success last year, Cramond Kirk is hosting its second Christmas Tree Festival from Sunday 12th to Sunday 19th December. The trees will remain in the Kirk over Christmas. Local organisations and schools are busy working on their ideas for decorating their trees on the theme of 'Christmas Carols and Songs.' The variety of trees and decorations last year was magnificent and, although groups are keeping their creative thoughts top secret, there is a sense that this year's event will be one not to miss!

Details of when the Kirk will be open for the Christmas Tree Festival will be on the Kirk's website at [www.cramondkirk.org.uk](http://www.cramondkirk.org.uk) or Facebook page soon.

The charities which will benefit from the proceeds of the Fair, the Hamper Draw and the Tree Festival are Mary's Meals, Fresh Start and Cramond Kirk.



## THE LITTLE GATEHOUSE GALLERY

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Come and visit our Christmas Exhibition, we have beautiful new paintings and giclée prints by artist Ronald Ryan, unique glass wall art by Robert Ryan, pastels by Brian Frost, slate paintings by Karen Speirs and much more!...

Come in and see our CHRISTMAS SPECIAL ART OFFERS at incredible prices, gifted by the artists.

As a special thank you to the congregation of Cramond Kirk, bring your grapevine magazine with you and you will get 10% off your purchases (excludes existing special offers)

*The gallery is at the entrance to Cramond Kirkyard*

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## FROM THE MANSE



to 'see' in normal light. He spoke of how painful it was for his eyes as they struggled to acclimatise to daylight again. Eyes need light. People, plants and all creatures really need the light of the sun.

The definition of darkness in my dictionary is this, 'the partial or total absence of light'. Are you surprised that darkness is defined by light, or to be accurate the lack of it?

I'm not alone in finding the month of November quite difficult because of the absence of light. It is being withdrawn day after day. You may ask, isn't December even more difficult as it has less daylight hours than November? This is not the case for me and the difference is due to Christmas – a time of special light for the Christian community. One of my favourite texts from Christmas is Richard Crashaw's Hymn of the Nativity penned in 1648,

**Gloomy night embraced the place  
Where the noble infant lay :  
The babe look'd up, and show'd His  
face ;  
In spite of darkness it was day.**

My dictionary's definition of light is, 'the natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible'. Christmas celebrations will again I guess, be overblown commercially with pomp, plonk and presents. Despite that I still need the light from the coming of the Christ child. Light which can illuminate the dark corners of my life, the church and our world. The light brings hope that from the most surprising places a new outrageously new direction is possible.

The familiar carols point the way for me:

**The race that long in darkness pined  
has seen a glorious light  
and**

**Light and life to all he brings**

The Christian faith and most religions use the words 'darkness' and 'light' regularly for they depict something most of us understand. None of us would like to live day by day in darkness. Darkness is deadly for most plants, animals and human beings. So, whatever your attitude to Christmas 2021, please enjoy the light it sheds from trees, cards, homes and hearts. Use the light you have and share some light with others.

At Cramond kirk we will be bringing light through services and our Christmas Tree Festival and we would be pleased to welcome you and your family.

Have a delightful Christmas,

Ian Y. Gilmour, Locum minister

### Darkness or Light?

At one point during warfare my father was captured and transported to another country. He was battered down in complete darkness in the hold of a ship for a long sea journey. He mentioned more than once the fierce physical pain when a few weeks later he was allowed on deck and had

### Christmas Tree Festival 2020





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## Meet Edith Butler – Session Clerk

Many of you will know Edith, who as Session Clerk leads the 80 elders of Cramond Kirk. She took on this busy voluntary role in 2019 for a five year tenure. She views her role to communicate between the Ministry and the Elders, who in turn look after the members of the Kirk and are in touch directly providing pastoral support.

The "Kirk Session" as its called, is responsible for providing worship in the Kirk as well as the business of the Kirk, including managing the

finances and the properties -the Kirk itself, the manse, the kirk halls and Cramond House. There were plenty of challenges for Edith and her team managing the buildings in that respect during Covid and the ever changing circumstances of not having a full time Minister in residence.

Edith is a retired dentist who is a keen outdoors enthusiast - as well as curling, water sports and mountain biking she is also a bee keeper. "We don't take much honey from our bees as that's their way of getting nourishment through the winter months. I see it more as my job to look after them." She has lived in Cramond for over 50 years.

## Full cups of fun and fellowship

Awash with coffee and tea, stuffed with cake, and chockfull of fun and fellowship: that was Cramond as people got together with friends and neighbours to raise funds for the charity Finlay's Friends.

Over £2,200 has now been donated to this small charity which provides "comfort kits" and other support to the families of seriously ill youngsters admitted to hospital in an emergency.

The charity was set up several years ago in memory of eight-year-old Finlay Bennett who died from meningitis. In this short life he always put the needs of others above his own.

Finlay's Mum, Jenny, said: "Thank you so much for your lovely initiative at Cramond, at a time when a blether over a cuppa and cake is all the more important for everyone! To know that Finlay's wee legacy is such a positive one really helps me and his younger brother to manage when things get a little tougher."

June Kemp, who came up with the idea of holding tea parties and coffee mornings as an alternative to the cancelled Jumble Sale, said: "It is wonderful how generous everyone has been. From coffee mornings to dinner parties (and even a scone fest), Fun and Fellowship has been in abundance!"



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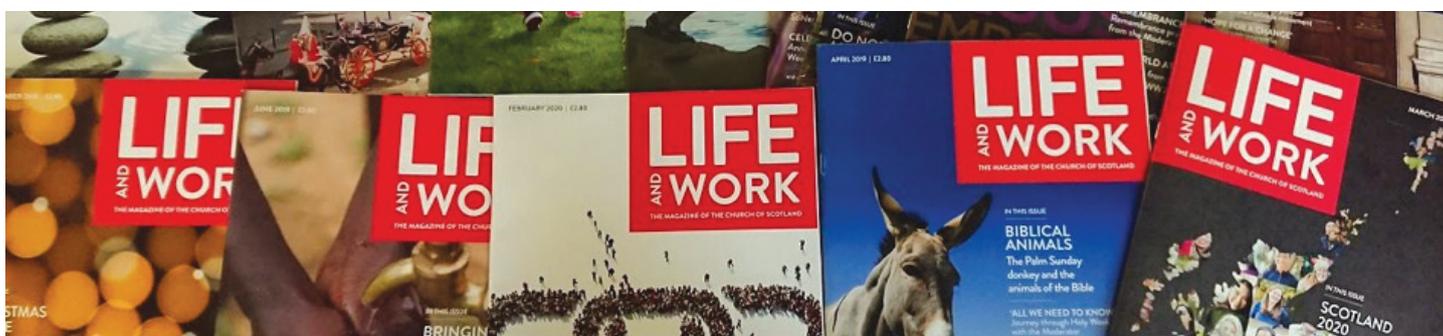


# Octavoce Concert

In August the first live concert took place in the Kirk since the outbreak of Covid. The renowned multi-award winning eight-part vocal ensemble group from Edinburgh – OCTAVOCE – enthralled an audience of 150 with a hugely varied programme of A Cappella music including renaissance, romantic and modern classics. What a treat! The net proceeds from the concert of £700 will be donated to our Turi Children's Project in West Kenya which we have been supporting since 2015. During the Covid-19 pandemic staff at TCP delivered food and clothes parcels to families in need and are now working on exciting projects for the future including new computer desks so that the children can learn computer skills each day, new benches in the grounds of the school and an upgrade to the younger children's playground.



If you would like to learn more about the Turi Children's Project please visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/TCP.Kenya](http://www.facebook.com/TCP.Kenya).



## LIFE AND WORK

*Life and Work* is the magazine specifically for the Church of Scotland. Since it first appeared in 1879, it has established itself as the pre-eminent voice of the Church of Scotland. As well as giving information about life in the Kirk, it also aims to cover a broad range of subjects of interest to church-goers. These range from international affairs and British political and social issues, to science, ethics, the arts and health. The *Life and Work* of today is very different to that of 1879 and is now a full colour magazine with the additional value of a website to

reach an online audience. However, the spirit and ethos of that first edition remain: to be a unifying force within the Church whilst offering an independent forum for debate from a Christian perspective.

One of the magazine's most important elements is reader feedback. The letters pages are among the liveliest in the magazine business, and are very revealing about general attitudes both within and beyond the Church.

If you would like to become a new subscriber, I'd be very happy to arrange this for you so please do give me a call.

Sandra Haggarty, 0131 339 3248

## A SEASONAL WORD PUZZLE

Use the letters of **CHRISTMAS AT CRAMOND** to fill in the blanks.

For example, have you got the **STAMINA** to complete this list?

1. Write Christmas \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and then post or deliver.
2. Sing Christmas Carols during Advent along with the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.
3. Enjoy the Kirk's Christmas Fair and Tree Festival. Come and help by lending a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.
4. Watch some fine young \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ in the Nativity play.
5. On Christmas Eve leave out a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ for Rudolph and a wee \_ \_ \_ \_ for \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.
6. On Christmas Day put on a woolly \_ \_ \_ and join in the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ at the Kirk.
7. At 3pm find a comfortable \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and listen to the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.
8. When it gets dark, look for a bright \_ \_ \_ \_ in the sky and think of the first Christmas.

# News from the Cramond & Barnton Community Council

We would like to extend a warm welcome to any new residents who have recently moved into the area. The Cramond and Barnton Community Council (C&BCC) exists to be the link between the local community and Edinburgh Council (CEC) and report its concerns and opportunities for improving environmental or social aspects of the community to the CEC. Our work also involves reviewing and commenting on CEC's and developers' proposals for the area. We would be very pleased to have more support from present and new residents to assist the band of hard working volunteers who try to do so much to maintain this lovely part of Edinburgh. Contact details are at the end.

Work has gone on over the summer on various projects. Negotiations with AMA, local residents and C&BCC are ongoing to make the best use of the remaining land at the Brighthouse site at Cramond. We are very fortunate to have the support of a local expert on sports provision and open spaces to lead discussions on facilities that will be most suitable to meet local requirements.



The proposed City Plan 2030 was approved for publication in late September and a 6-week period of public consultations will start in November. As it will concern everyone in Edinburgh, you should make your views known to the City Council and copy these to the C&BCC so that we can consider and potentially represent your views. You can comment on City Plan on our Facebook page and website and follow progress on the notice boards at the Barnton shops and outside the Cramond Nursery in Whitehouse Road.

The Lauriston Castle Lodge Memory Garden Project is underway and the first phase should be open in about 2 months. It is intended as a relaxing but stimulating place for dementia sufferers and their carers and in time the lodge will be renovated as a drop-in centre. Further details can be found on <https://edinburghforgetmenotgarden.org/>

There is other welcome news - namely the Lauriston Farm Agroecology Project, which will include food growing areas, woodland and orchard planting, wildlife enhancement and plans for community involvement. Further details can be found in the newsletter on our website.

Two community councillors recently held talks with representatives of Cramond Medical Practice to discuss how it was run during the pandemic, which unfortunately coincided with major structural alterations to the building, and the Practice's future plans.

So the range of topics the C&BCC are involved in in the interests of the local community are very varied. Efforts continue to try and get better traffic management and road maintenance, ensuring development proposals are

appropriate, that there is heritage conservation as well as improvements to local amenities.

The C&BCC meetings are on line at present and anyone can join these meetings by contacting [cramton17@gmail.com](mailto:cramton17@gmail.com) for the links.

Follow us on our Facebook page : [www.Facebook.com/CramondandBarntonCC/](http://www.Facebook.com/CramondandBarntonCC/) and our website [www.cramond-barnton.org](http://www.cramond-barnton.org)

Jean Morley  
Cramond & Barnton Community Council

## Poem Emerging from Lockdown

I'm still in a lockdown bubble of love.  
Deprived of touch,  
soothing messages of feelings  
previously unspoken  
have floated in on big cushions of peace.  
Who would have whispered  
how much we missed each other  
if we'd still been rushing from pillar to post?

How would my heart have sung  
when my family appeared, unexpectedly, on their bikes,  
to drink tea on my patio (from a distance)  
Or my grandson zoomed an arrow of joy  
I to my heart  
as we linked from afar?  
Who needs a car when there is time to walk  
and think and learn,  
(or even time to "waste")  
time to realise how precious every second is  
and has been?

Deep thoughts have been shared, sorrows pooled  
and difficult conversations inspired.  
Lockdown has lobbed us an unexpected chrysalis,  
a chance for reflection.  
At the end, we have surely plumbed new depths  
of what it is to be human  
and emerge,  
transformed with insight and compassion.

*Judy Arrowsmith*



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Left to right: Ian Gilmour, Russell Barr, Moira McDonald

## From our Moderator – Moira McDonald

For all of us over the past eighteen months life has changed enormously. We are emerging into hopeful post-vaccination life still cautious, still wearing our masks and being aware of social distancing, but having all been changed, even if that change means being more grateful for what we might have taken for granted in the past.

We've experienced the pain and uncertainty of change, but also recognised the adaptability and resilience that we have shown as individuals and families, communities

and countries, and as a global family too. We have been both diminished by the pandemic, but strengthened too, and are able to assess what we want to return to and what we want to introduce in the new normal – how do we shop or work, how do we travel, what is important to us in the here and now?

For the parish of Cramond life changed a year ago when Russell retired as Minister. For church attenders and members, but also for the wider parish including children at school and the many who have been supported by Russell at the best and worst times of life, his going was a great sorrow.

Initially we had hoped a successor could be found for Russell within a year. Cramond is a vibrant church and a large parish. But changes have come to the Church of Scotland which can no longer be ignored, and challenges around falling numbers of ministers and attendance in all churches have meant that in the midst of all the change of Covid, the church nationally has also had to take stock and rethink and wonder what the new normal might look like.

Cramond parish is part of what is known as the Forth West cluster, working with neighbouring parishes in this part of Edinburgh to find ways of sharing resources and planning for the future – which is no longer in the future but in the here and now. While it looks as though nothing is

happening to find a replacement for Russell, conversations are being held, possibilities suggested, relationships built, ways forward looked for to ensure a future for all the communities in our Presbytery, and members of Cramond Kirk have been instrumental in leading those conversations. And those conversations reflect the changes that have taken place in our communities well before Covid as well as during Covid times – changes in church going and belief, in family life, in technology and the internet. The pattern we have followed of one minister for each church and services on Sunday mornings is a pattern we have followed for several hundred years. Covid has shown us we can change and need to change, whilst recognising what is dear to us and how we can continue to be a caring community.

So while we remain in uncertain times I would ask you to work with our neighbours in Cramond and the Forth West cluster, as well as Edinburgh Presbytery and the Church of Scotland as a whole, to be part of the change that will shape our future, to value what we have and to seek to share and accept resources, to take part in new ventures while supporting the traditional. What lies ahead may not yet be clear, but the part we play in shaping that future speaks of faith, hope and love.

Reverend Moira McDonald



In 2011 the Cramond & Barnton Community Council and Alzheimers Scotland started a dementia café in Cramond Kirk Hall to

provide support for people with dementia, their families and carers. Cramond was selected by Edinburgh City Council for a pilot study as a dementia-friendly community and, after the success of the study, Edinburgh was launched as Scotland's first Dementia City in 2014.

From the success of this venture the idea to establish a bespoke centre for relaxation, stimulation and assistance was created and The Lodge at Lauriston Castle and its overgrown garden were put forward as a suitable location for this project which was to become known as The Forget-Me-Not Garden Trust.

In December 2014, Morag Young and I were joint convenors of our Kirk Christmas Fair raising circa £8,700 and The Forget-Me-Not Garden Trust was one of the two charities we decided to support. A cheque for £4,000 was duly handed over to add to a Council grant the project convenors had already received.

At that time the project was in its infancy but, seven years

on, it is encouraging to learn that planning permission has been granted and sufficient funds acquired to start the work on the garden although much more funding is required to transform The Lodge itself.

Like many others, particularly in recent times, I am sure you will have enjoyed the benefits of walking in Lauriston Castle Grounds, not to mention coffee and cake at Mimi's! If you wish to discover more about this local project and how you can support those with dementia and their carers, here is the link :- <https://edinburghforgetmenotgarden.org>

Dot Kemp



# COP 26, The Environment and Cramond – how can we play our part?

COP 26 (the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference) takes place in Glasgow in the first week of November. COP stands for Conference of the Parties, and countries meet to discuss how to minimise climate change.

At the last COP the international community agreed to a plan to reduce global warming by 1.5 degrees, but this hasn't been achieved. This month countries will update their emission reduction plans.

So how can we all play our part in a global commitment to reducing emissions? Here in Cramond, heating our houses is one of our biggest contributions to global warming. So looking to make energy efficiency improvements will make a difference. These could be insulation, heating systems and double glazing as well as domestic renewables, like photovoltaics.

Home Energy Scotland (see [homeenergyscotland.org](http://homeenergyscotland.org)) provides grants and loans for energy efficiency improvements and my own experience was a slick system to access the funding for underfloor insulation.

Claire Chapman  
Cramond Kirk Eco-Congregation Representative

## Poppy pebbles in Cramond Kirkyard



## SEASONAL WORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

1. CARDS 2. CHOIR 3. HAND 4. ACTORS 5. CARROT, DRAM, SANTA 6. HAT, MIRTH 7. CHAIR, MONARCH 8. STAR

## The Childrens Hymn



The Childrens Hymn, 232 – celebrates Harvest thanksgiving. Here are some of the verses sung at this years Harvest Festival and the photo of Chloe and Autumn with harvest gifts in the Kirk

Pears and apples, wheat and grapes,  
many textures, many shapes;  
falling leaves in golden drifts,  
thank you, God, for all your gifts.

Deep beneath the ocean floor  
fuel and power have lain in store,  
brought to us through dangerous toil.  
Thank you, God, for gas and oil.

Earth and ocean, plant and beast,  
all together make the feast;  
all who long to share your grace  
at your table have their place.

Joseph Arthur Paul Booth (1931–1995)

## FRESH START

If you have donations for Fresh Start and would like us to collect them from you, please be in touch with the Kirk Office at [cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk). Fresh Start is always grateful for donations of dishes and cutlery, household cleaning items, small electrical items, tinned and packet food. For further information, please visit the Fresh Start website at [www.freshstartweb.org.uk](http://www.freshstartweb.org.uk)



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