

THE GRAPEVINE

CRAMOND KIRK MAGAZINE

WINTER 2021/22

Issue 122



www.cramondkirk.org.uk

Cramond Commemorates with first tree planting

In a new community initiative, school-children from Cramond Primary and Cargilfield helped to plant a tree of remembrance, as a living memorial to all that's been lost in this area through Covid-19 during the past months.

Over the next year, local organisations will plant more trees and bulbs as focal points for remembrance. This "Cramond Commemorates" initiative was inspired by a suggestion in the recent Imagine Cramond exhibition. The first tree - a Sessile oak - was planted outside Cramond Kirk Halls in November. As the project rolls out, it's hoped to involve families, individuals, schools, church and community groups in providing trees and bulbs for public spaces and gardens in the area.

"COVID-19 has inflicted pain and loss on many through illness and death. And social isolation and restrictions have taken their toll on people of all ages," said Stuart Richardson, chair of the Cramond Commemorates project. "It's important to have somewhere to go, where people can reflect, remember, grieve, or celebrate a loved one's life. Hopefully they will find solace in the act of planting beautiful living memorials in Cramond, Barnton and Cammo."

To find out more, including how you might contribute a tree or bulbs to "Cramond Commemorates", email cramondcom@gmail.com or see <https://www.cramondkirk.org.uk/cramond-commemorates/>



We Plant Poetry

This poem from David Bleiman's book (reviewed in this Grapevine) is made from the children's own words when the Sessile Oak was planted:

When we are old - I'm guessing
thirty-three
I'll take you back and we can see
What's happened to the tree
We plant today for Cramond.

Trees grow like humans, step by
step,
their branches stretching far and
wide,
Soft leaves, like feathers, floating
in the air,
reach out, soaking up the sun.

*I like it when it's gloomy
you like me when it's sunny,
come under, share my shade,
join all the animals living in me!*

*Tall as the clouds
And every root is an emotion,
My seed drops down,
My spirit radiates as I rise.*

That's why we plant a tree and
write our poetry,
a tree will reach out like a friend,
with love and hope for all the
world,
our spirit radiates as we rise.

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

Daily Devotions

Mondays and Friday - online at
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EASTER SERVICES

14 - 17 April

7.30 pm :
Maundy Thursday service

7.30 pm :
Good Friday service

Easter Day

7.30 am :
Easter Dawn service at
Cramond Waterfront

8.45 am : Morning Prayers
10.00 am Morning Worship

* * * * *

*All are welcome and
we look forward to
seeing you*

Read more: www.cramondkirk.org.uk . Deadline for next issue 24th April 2022 T: 0131 336 2036



Parish Register

BAPTISMS

- 14 Nov Charlotte Amelia, daughter of Paul & Emma Winship
21 Nov Imogen Catherine, daughter of James & Jill Armstrong
12 Dec Saga Egebjerg, daughter of Sandy & Pernille Richardson
12 Dec Molly Rosina, daughter of Craig & Clare Elder
26 Dec Meredith May, daughter of Daniel & Madeleine Hufton

DEATHS

- 26 Sept Joan Walker
15 Oct Margaret Hay
16 Oct Sheila McKie
23 Oct Sandra Rowantree
26 Oct Ada Smith
14 Nov Daphne Green
25 Nov Bill McGuire
27 Nov Innes Hardie
29 Nov Dorothy Tweeddale
14 Dec Pat Gray
6 Jan Robin White
7 Jan Helen King
8 Jan Margaret Rodgers
26 Jan Jeannette Scholes

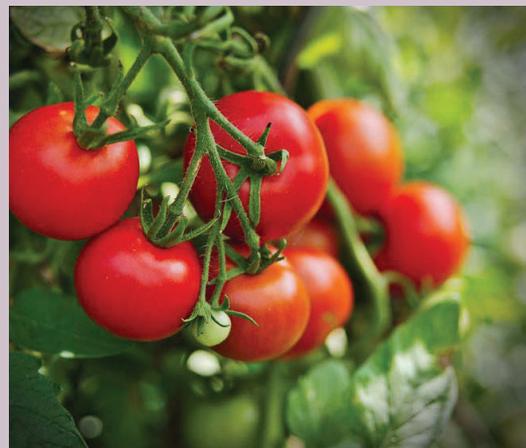
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Tomatoes for Christian Aid 2022



2021 was a good year for growing tomatoes, late ripening meant some of us were still harvesting into late October.

An all-time record sum of £431 was raised for Christian Aid despite the Covid "lockdown" and the cancellation of the annual Christian Aid Fair at Cramond Kirk Hall. Many folk were inspired by more time at home and in the garden to grow tomatoes and other plants & vegetables.

We had many new and regular satisfied customers including from as far afield as Newhaven and Blinkbonny and our team of growers and deliverers were kept very busy.

Now is the time to plan for the 2022 season. Supplies of award-winning "Ailsa Craig", "Cherry" "Gardener's Delight" and perhaps other varieties will be available, complete with growing-on instructions in time for Christian Aid Week, 15th -22nd May 2022. Whether a Christian Aid Fair will be possible is unknown as yet, but pre-ordered tomato plants will be available to be collected from the Kirk Hall on Sunday 15th May.

These may be grown in large pots or Gro-Bags in greenhouses, conservatories, porches or on windowsills as well as outside in well-sheltered positions. Over the past 36 years over £5,000 has been raised for Christian Aid in this way. Easy to grow, especially for beginners or for the more experienced gardener, the sight, scent and taste of ripe red (and occasionally yellow) tomatoes, just ready to pick, provides a welcome change from the pre-packaged variety which may have travelled thousands of miles by air to the supermarket.

Ensure your supplies now via **donations of say £1 per plant**, by contacting Michael Dick on 0131 281 7981 (or Crichton Mouat on 334 6583) for standard "Ailsa Craig" and other plants plus the smaller & popular red "Cherry" variety. You too could be enjoying freshly-plucked tomatoes this summer in addition to being kind to the environment & supporting Christian Aid but do hurry to place your order as supplies are limited and are of course subject to the weather!

Michael Dick

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FROM THE MANSE



What strengthens you through the pandemic?

*'Sometimes I'm up, and sometimes I'm down...
But still my soul feels heaven bound.
Coming for to carry me home.'* from **Swing Low, Sweet Chariot**

Many people across the country have experienced a tremendous weariness during this long pandemic. Every one of us has been affected, even if we have not been infected. The melodies of the Spirituals were carried from Africa, finding words in America in the 18th and 19th centuries. They were forged when strong Christian hymns interfaced with the harsh experience of slaves. Since then, when the African American community in the USA has a crisis these old authentic words are called upon and found still to be effective.

Here are a few of the famous titles:
He's got the whole world in his hands
This little light of mine
We shall overcome
Going home

Our hymn book in Cramond Kirk has one from this tradition and it was written by Charles Albert Tindley. Charles was born during that long period of slavery in the USA. He taught himself to read and worked hard to make himself an inspiring communicator.

If you are in need of uplift try Dr Tindley's hymn *Stand by me* (CH4 Hymn 570):

When the storms of life are raging, stand by me;
when the storms of life are raging, stand by me.
When the world is pounding me,
like a ship upon the sea,
Lord, who rules the wind and water, stand by me.

In the midst of tribulation, stand by me;
In the midst of tribulation, stand by me.
When the hosts of hell assail,
and my strength begins to fail,
Lord, who never lost a battle, stand by me.

I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me;
when I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me.
When my life becomes a burden
and I'm nearing chilly Jordan,
Lord, the Lily of the Valley, stand by me.

Charles Albert Tindley (1851–1933)

Ian Y. Gilmour, Locum minister

Ian Gilmour is author of "Slavery to Civil Rights".

This is a Christian story. Conquest, colonisation, trafficking of millions into slavery – this is a British story in the Western hemisphere. Resistance, solidarity, self-control and self-education is the African story in the USA.

Ian's book shows us that the slaves recomposed the Christian dream of lives free under God into the inextinguishable music of Africa, thereby giving Americans songs to sing that they would call their own. Puritan America tried to keep the Bible from the slaves – in response the slaves gave America Gospel music and thousands of Spirituals. For Ian, the slaves' own music is the unfolding Exodus Way of their self-emancipation, inspiring their great leaders pursuing equality in law, and the little people demanding equality on the bus. Finally it inspired some white people to join them on their singing way, to demand justice, even to sacrifice their lives.

Taken from the Foreword by Dr Desmond Ryan.





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inspired by her love of colour.

The Gallery has a website to help you keep up to date with all Ruth's news regarding up and coming gallery exhibitions and new work for sale. If you are looking to buy unique artwork, gifts or cards

for yourself, family or friends then please pop into the gallery to chat with Ruth or alternatively visit the online shop at www.blueeaselgallery.co.uk to purchase direct to your door from the comfort of your own home.

If you find the gallery closed when you visit Cramond Village, Ruth will always be delighted to come and open up, show you around and help you find something special if she is at home nearby, you can find her telephone number in the gallery window.

Ruth would like to extend her thanks to everyone who has supported her and the gallery over the last five years and is looking forward to continuing to bring colour to Cramond and all her customers, near or far, old and new.

The Blue Easel Gallery
8 Cramond Village



The Blue Easel Gallery

The Blue Easel Gallery, with its bright blue door and colourful interior, is perfectly situated in the heart of Cramond Village. You'll find it directly opposite the Village red phone and post boxes. Gallery owner, artist and village resident Ruth Farquhar, will be celebrating bringing beautiful art to Cramond for 5 years in March.

Ruth, together with her friend and fellow artist Jennifer Thomson, ran the gallery when it originally opened for business in 2017, the two having met at Cramond Kirk's mother and toddler group over 20 years ago.

The Blue Easel is proud to be an independent, local business. When Ruth is not looking after her family and walking her Irish Terrier, Finn the Gallery Dog, she divides her time between making art in her inspiring artist's studio during the week and opening the gallery for customers and visitors at the weekend.

Having lived in Cramond Village for over 25 years and married in the Cramond Kirk, Ruth's paintings are not surprisingly inspired by views of the village, foreshore and island, displayed alongside these are vibrant flora images





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CHRISTMAS events raise £2,300 for charities Marys Meals and Fresh Start

The Christmas Fair Committee – Sandra Watson, Gena Wylie and Gill Massie – organised events to bring festive cheer once again to the local community despite the ongoing challenges of Covid.

Despite The Christmas Fair having to be cancelled again due to Covid restrictions, it didn't stop Sandra organising a few festive stalls after the Sunday service. There were opportunities to buy stocking fillers and crafts, win a bottle or two in the tombola, bid for a tempting chocolate wreath made by Lesley Pearson and beautiful quilts created by Alex Mackenzie while also enjoying delicious Christmas pies and shortbread with a cuppa. Well done to the stall holders, those who generously donated goods, the catering committee and hall management for getting the Kirk's festive activities off to a very good start.

The Christmas Hamper Draw, organised by Gena, broke records again! Thanks to a remarkable number of donations and a great team of helpers, 53 happy people received hampers on their doorsteps! Thank you also to everyone who bought tickets.

The Christmas Cryptic Quiz, devised by Gill, may have got people's minds in a fankle however a winner had to be drawn from six correct entries! Cramond and Barnton Community Council generously donated the prize.

25 beautifully adorned trees created this years Christmas Tree Festival, organised by Gill - a highlight

for many. Church and local organisations were invited to decorate trees on the theme of a Christmas carol or song. Visitors were in awe of the imagination, creativity and uniqueness of each tree. There were countless Nativity scenes, stars, stockings, snowflakes, Rudolfs, robins, baubles and



bells! The Kirk's tree was again a poignant memory tree that provided an opportunity to hang cards containing the names of loved ones. The feeling that it was beginning to look a lot like Christmas was further enhanced by Leslie Pendreigh's playing of Christmas music on the church organ. Thank you to the groups, hall management, Kirk office, ministerial team, musician, stewards, technology team and the visitors who all helped in its great success. A young team, with the help of Alex Mackenzie, produced a wonderful video of the event which can be seen on Facebook.

The total raised by the Christmas events was over £2,300 which has been divided between Mary's Meals, Fresh Start and Cramond Kirk. Thank you to everyone who gave generously and to Crichton Mouat and the treasury team for looking after the finances.

GM

LINK WORDS

Fit 7 words so each one connects with the words on either side. Use the first letter of each answer to work out the name of a local area.

NEARLY	NEW	SPRINT
REST	RAIN	BOW
HE	ART	GALLERY
GOOD	NIGHT	LIGHT
BLUE	BELL	OWING
CON	TOUR	GUIDE
SPILL	OVER	WORK

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Our local ecumenical **World Day of Prayer** Service will be held this year at 2.30 pm in **Davidson's Mains Parish Church**, Quality Street, Davidson's Mains on **Friday, 4 March 2022.**



This year's theme is
"I know the plans I have for you"
Everyone is very welcome

Hopes and Expectations



When Russell Barr retired in October 2020 after many years of parish ministry here in Cramond as well as in Greenock and Glasgow, it was expected that Cramond Kirk would be granted permission by Edinburgh Presbytery to begin the process of calling a new minister. There were a few routine discussions to be had before that happened. However, things have changed beyond anyone's expectations due to Covid and massive changes in both Edinburgh Presbytery and the Church of Scotland.

The Covid issues, as we all know, were novel, unexpected

and a sudden shock whereas in the church the issues were in fact long-term problems concerning finances, buildings and ministers. It has not helped us in Cramond that these things have appeared together.

The facts are:

- 1) A concern about income streams and a pressing shortage of ordained ministers as well as ministers in training means the numbers agreed by the General Assembly for Edinburgh Presbytery to cut the number of posts from 78 to 48 – a loss of 30 ministry posts. This meant that Edinburgh Presbytery halted the active Presbytery Plan, in order to look at the Presbytery as a whole, rather than responding to individual cases. This meant that Cramond found itself 'in limbo' until a new presbytery plan is agreed.
- 2) In the meantime the Kirk and parish have been in the hands of myself, with Ian as locum minister, Edith as Session Clerk and the elders until further notice.
- 3) Neighbouring churches – or 'clusters' – across Edinburgh have been instructed to enter into conversations to suggest and discern more effective and possible forms of ministry, and in conjunction with i) The Old Kirk & Muirhouse and ii) Drylaw churches, one of which is vacant and one soon-to-be vacant, Cramond found willing and able partners in moving forward. The keenness of different churches to work together hasn't been as easy in many parts of the city, but with an open and outward attitude our three local churches proposed that we enter into a more formal working relationship, and fed this back to Presbytery. When the draft Plan

was published just before Christmas – a union was proposed between Cramond, Drylaw and the Old Kirk & Muirhouse, with a ministry team of a full time Minister of Word and Sacrament (ie a parish minister), a deacon and a Ministry Development Worker (who could take the form of an associate minister or youth worker or children and family worker, depending on the local discussions among the churches), as well as retaining existing locally funded staff, which in Cramond's case consists of an associate minister, church secretary, hall manager and pastoral worker. To the west of the parish, in Cammo Meadows, there would be a parish boundary change meaning that the new houses (not the existing homes at Cammo) would become a new parish encompassing the western expansion including West Craigs, and the garden city at Gogarburn, and would be looked after by a newly appointed Pioneer minister.

- 4) On Saturday 15th January a meeting of Presbytery plus representatives from all the Edinburgh congregations was held in order to ask questions about processes and possibilities, whys and wherefores, and to ask what happens next.

What happens next in Cramond, I hope, is that the Kirk Session will agree to enter into more formal conversations with our neighbours, discussing staffing and worship and buildings and mission, and if a way forward can be agreed by the three Kirk Sessions, proceed to becoming a union, and being given permission to call a new minister and set up a staff team. There will need to be serious talks about buildings and finance, with questions over the sale of all three manses, Cramond's included, but these are for local conversations, and I hope we will enter those conversations with open minds.

This is a very long article to answer a short question that many have been asking; when will Cramond be able to call a new minister. I certainly hope that you will bear with the elders of all three charges, and those who are seeking a way forward for Cramond, as well as the wider ministry of Edinburgh Presbytery, and will be willing to join with our neighbours in continuing to build the kingdom of God in our own part of Edinburgh.

Moira McDonald
Interim Moderator



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Wild flowers to look out for along the River Almond Walkway in Spring

It is interesting to observe the changes that take place over the year when observing wild plants by the River Almond. There can be little doubt that the most prolific plant to be seen in Spring is Few-flowered Leek/Garlic. This plant is native to the Caucasus and was brought to the UK in the early 1800s. It is highly invasive, spreading by means of bulbils, and by the 1860s it was present at several sites in the Edinburgh area. Our native Wild Garlic (Ramsons) is also present. It has broader leaves and flowers slightly later. Large numbers of both species can be seen growing together in some places. A vast area of Ramsons can be seen between Peggy's Mill and the Salvesen steps - very nice for making Wild Garlic soup or pesto!

Carpeting the ground in some places is Lesser Celandine. The yellow flowers are attractive and the plant spreads rapidly by means of bulbils. It provides a food source for bees and other insects. Let's hope it can compete favourably with the Few-flowered Leek!

The pinkish inflorescences of our native Butterbur emerge before the leaves and attract foraging honey bees. It can be found at Dowie's Mill and between the Salvesen steps and Fair a' Far Weir. The large leaves were in the past used to wrap butter. White Butterbur was imported as a garden ornamental. It has become naturalised and can be seen close to the site of Peggy's Mill.

In 2020 I discovered a beautiful little plant by the river's edge at the site of Peggy's Mill. It is called Moschatel. There are five tiny flowers at the top of a long stalk. It has also been named 'Town Hall clock' as four flowers face out in four directions to one another.

Further upstream there are patches of very attractive Wood Anemones by



Moschatel

the riverside and it would be nice to see more of them!

Other flowers you might see at this time include Coltsfoot, Cuckoo Flower, Ground Ivy, Spotted Dead Nettle, Ivy-leaved Toadflax, Dog's Mercury and Pink Purslane.

Roll on Springtime!

Isla Browning
Friends of the River Almond Walkway

Gathering Light by David Bleiman Review

Ian Gilmour begins his foreword to David Bleiman's booklet by observing that 'Cramond is certainly worth a poem', thus signalling the commitment of a good (locum) parish minister to both his territory and to the arts.

The title poem opens with these beautiful lines,

This was the day we went out
to collect the light . . .

At the time of a pandemic, what could be more important? During the days of winter, what could be more inspiring? For a congregation, for children, for anyone depressed by the cold, the damp, the dark, this collection of poetry brings a light but knowing touch to Cramond and its people.

Cramond Commemorates has involved the whole community. The first tree was a sessile oak, planted by children from Cramond Primary and Cargilfield. Trees are known to talk to one another underground, and in the poem put together from the words of P4 children, we have 'every root is an emotion', and 'my seed drops down', so that 'a tree will reach out like a friend'. I think what is true of trees will be true of poetry like this also.

While the poetry is simple enough to understand - which is not true of all contemporary poetry - there are some nice tongue-twisting sequences to startle you out of just

skimming through. How about 'lockdown-quiffed goosanders dip', from 'Not Seeing the Wood for the Words', or 'the door of the loo in Woolloomooloo' from 'Fair-a-Far Fish Ladder', or 'pert potholes cup the murky slosh' from 'February Flashback'?

One of my favourite poems is 'Unoaked', an elegy:

Innocent of ill intent, our great
oak shaded

Mrs Rankin's renowned Refreshment Rooms . . .

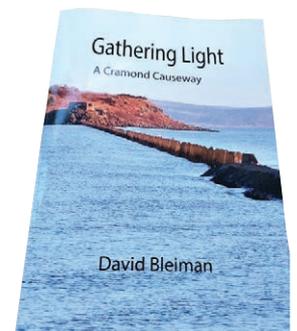
But now the Council has cut it down to half its height, leaving the magnificent tree 'unlimbed, unleaving and unboughed'. And though the pun implied when you read that final word is a final tribute to the spirit of the tree, the reality is spelt out with these sad words, leaving the roots of the tree to deal with their emotions and ours.

The penultimate poem ends with a single word on a single line: 'Imagine!' This booklet, like all good poetry, will let you do that.

Jock Stein (poet, piper and preacher)

Gathering Light: A Cramond Causeway is available for £5 from Envelope & Bacon (at Barnton P.O.) or online from <https://poetrykilt.bigcartel.com/>

All proceeds go to *Cramond Commemorates*.





Barbados Celtic Festival

At this time of year plans get underway to create a programme of Celtic musical events on the sunny Caribbean island of Barbados, including a street parade with pipers and drummers alongside the Barbados Defence Band which played at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in the 1990s. With visiting folk musicians also taking part from Eddi Reader from Glasgow to Hamish Stuart from the Average White Band, the Peatbog Faeries from Skye and Fara from Orkney – all have performed on stage in Barbados. Your Grapevine editor has been the director of this festival since 2011 bringing joy to thousands on the island – it's a rich cultural exchange of music and friendship – with many events taking place in schools – visiting Scottish musicians run workshops teaching children Scottish and Irish songs and Canadians of Scottish origins, from Nova Scotia, also take part. All this wrapped up in a Scottish Television programme reporting events. One year we produced a whole programme on the history of white indentured servants purged from Scotland to Barbados to work in the sugar industry – visiting the museum to see the records of Highland surnames arriving in 1748. Their descendants still live in very poor conditions on the east coast of the island. Filming those interviews was one of the most moving days of my life.

Carol Anderson

LINK WORDS ANSWER

LOCAL AREA - **BARNTON**

THE GATHERING SPACE CAFE

The Gathering Space café has opened a seated area inside the Kirk Halls. From offering only carry out hot soup, bacon rolls and delicious lunch sandwiches, wraps, cake and ice creams as well as delicious coffees, you can now sit indoors and enjoy eating with friends and family.

Heather told us: “we could not be happier with the fresh and welcoming look of the indoor café space. The espresso machine is gleaming for all to see on the new counter which was built by handyman extraordinaire Brian and local spark Danny. The gorgeous planters, overflowing with greenery are the work of Lesley Pearson. Lesley went the extra mile (or a hundred) by finishing them off with fresh moss picked from the forest floor in Ballater. We are also indebted to David and Alison who are a constant source of help and support.

It is very encouraging to see our customers returning in 2022 and to be welcoming so many new faces. Hopefully the new look Gathering Space will feel welcoming to everyone whether passing through on the way to a club or meeting up for a coffee and cake. The wooden benches remain outside for anyone who prefers to be al fresco but it' is lovely to be able to offer a seat inside on a typical January day.”

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Cathy, Heather and Jane



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