



THE GRAPEVINE



tokandmchurch@gmail.com

EDINBURGH NORTHWEST KIRK MAGAZINE

www.cramondkirk.org.uk

DECEMBER 2023

Issue 128

...and now we are one!



After a long and at times tortuous journey, Edinburgh Northwest Kirk is fully established as the Parish Church of North-Western Edinburgh. There is much to celebrate and do as we journey forward, taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to the folks alongside whom we live and work. The blend of people, skills and resources amongst us is truly outstanding and we are grateful to all those who have pioneered working across the old boundaries to prepare the way. I'm resisting the temptation

to talk about the 'new' Parish – we are quite simply The Parish – united in purpose, in friendship and in vision. A lot has already been achieved: the Nominating Committee is doing its job in searching for a Minister, the Finance Team is bringing together our accounts and the Kirk Session has considered its own shape and the teams we need to organise and plan our overall mission. There are lots of things still to plan for, but we need above all to be patient with one another as we endeavour to get things right. The more we can talk as The Parish, rather than the former parts, the sooner we will genuinely feel like The Parish. I'm sure all of us will slip up from time to time, but with a smile and good humour, we'll gently remind one another of who we are. I'm so glad to have been a part of your life through this phase and proud of the way you have all given your best to The Parish – I hope you are too!

Rev Dr Martin Scott,
Interim Moderator



Service on 3rd September to celebrate the union between Cramond Kirk and The Old Kirk and Muirhouse

CRAMOND KIRK SERVICES

Every Sunday

Morning Prayers – 8.45 am
Morning Worship – 10 am

Communion

Sunday, 3 December – 8.45 am

Sunday Club

for children aged 2-17 takes place every Sunday at Cramond Kirk during the 10.00am service. A creche for younger children is also provided.

ONLINE CHURCH

www.facebook.com/
cramondkirk2org.uk

www.cramondkirk.org.uk

10 am Morning Worship
every Sunday

Weekly Devotions

THE OLD KIRK AND MUIRHOUSE SERVICES

Every Sunday

Morning Worship – 11 am
The service includes the 'Sunday Funday' club for youngsters.



For full list of Christmas Services at both churches please see page 3

Deadline for next issue Sunday 14 January 2024 T: 0131 336 2036

Parish Register

BAPTISMS

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 3 June | Kristopher Chalmers (son of Kristopher & Edele) |
| 6 August | Louis Jarvie |
| 6 August | Ezra How |
| 13 August | Thomas Muir |
| 27 August | Eliza Bennett |

WEDDINGS

| | |
|---------|---|
| 13 June | Kristopher Chalmers & Edele Anderson |
| 21 July | Robert Stevenson & Katie Skirving |

DEATHS

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1 June | Catherine Gillies |
| 17 June | Esther Reid |
| 25 June | Mike Thomson |
| 27 July | Kay Frost |
| 12 August | Olive Bell |
| 17 August | Margaret Harper |
| 1 September | David Scrimgeour |
| 3 September | Christine Boyle |
| 16 September | Mary Louden |
| 18 September | May Brown |
| 24 September | Andrew Stoddart |
| 29 September | William Duncan |
| 1 October | Jessie Armit |
| 8 October | Ena Dobson |
| 14 October | Kathleen Dods |
| 22 October | Jim Roy |
| 31 October | Bob Kernohan |

NEW MEMBER

Martyn Hawthorn



Diane Williams retires

Diane Williams, who was Cramond Kirk's Pastoral Care Assistant (elderly care) for five years, retired from that role at the end of October. Her dedication to, and enthusiasm for, the role was remarkable and Cramond Kirk was glad to say thank you with gifts and flowers.

Picture: (left to right) Edith Butler, Rev Ian Gilmour, Diane Williams



FAIR TRADE STALL AT CRAMOND KIRK

Once a month, following the 10 am service in Cramond Kirk, our Fair Trade Stall sells a whole variety of goodies in the Kirk Hall. Please come along and help support the Fair Trade farmers and producers in developing countries around the world. The stall is open on the following Sundays:

10 December 2023 11 February 2024
14 January 2024 3 March 2024

The December stall is always a source of excellent stocking fillers and the stall on 3 March will have a special selection of chocolate items for Mothers' Day and Easter.

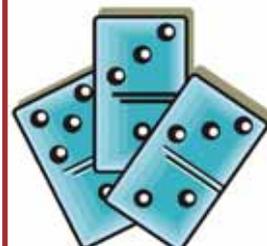
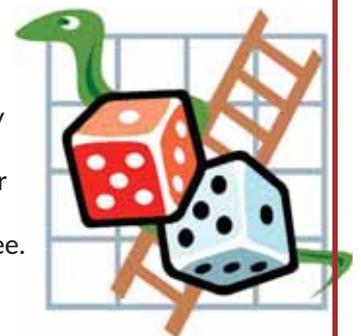
Kirk Social Activities



CRAMOND COFFEE & CHAT takes place every Monday from 10.30 am to 12 noon in the Gathering Space of Cramond Kirk Hall. We hope to see you there.

AND 'THE PLACE TO BE' COFFEE MORNING is back in the The Old Kirk and Muirhouse Hall every Monday at 10 am. All are welcome.

THE OLD KIRK AND MUIRHOUSE GAME GROUP meets fortnightly on Sundays from 1-3pm, playing dominoes and other board games. All are welcome and it is free.



There are always teas, coffees and biscuits on the go. [Those coming from the church service should bring some lunch.]

ELTON JOHN'S FAVOURITE HYMN



His fans may know Elton really appreciates 'Abide with me'. It has lovely chords. It is a hymn about change.

'Change and decay in all around I see, O thou who changest not, Abide with me.'

I meet many people concerned with the speed of change in church, society and the wider world.

A God with an unchanging nature as suggested in this hymn can be a rock to cling to, able to keep us safe in the storms of life. However, my view is that God is also the initiator of change. The Creator designs constant change as a key dynamic throughout the whole universe. A healthy approach is to be able to embrace it. Change can be beneficial for plants, animals and humans. It is good for our minds and spirits. Who would want an apple tree which did not turn flower to fruit, or a river which became stagnant or a health care system which only offers medicines available in the 19th century? We may not like all change, however we cannot stop it and to take it in our stride serves human beings very well.

Rev Ralph Morton of the Iona Community offered a rewrite of 'Abide with me'.

He suggested, 'change and quick growth in all around I see'.

I am attempting to live that message, what about you?

Ian Gilmour

Locum Minister Cramond Kirk

EDINBURGH NORTHWEST KIRK CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Cramond Kirk

Sunday, 3 December – Advent 1

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

Sunday, 10 December - Advent 2

8.45 am : Morning Prayers
10.00 am : Morning Worship

Wednesday, 13 December

7.00 pm : Christmas Comes Alive in Words & Music

Sunday, 17 December - Advent 3

8.45 am : Morning Prayers
10.00 am : Morning Worship

Saturday, 23 December

6.00 pm : Christingle Service

Christmas Eve

8.45 am : Morning Prayers
10.00 am : Morning Worship
11.00 pm : A Medley of Christmas Music
11.30 pm : Watchnight Service

Christmas Day

10.00 am : Family Service
10.45 am : Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Old Kirk & Muirhouse

Sunday, 3 December – Advent 1

11.00 am : Morning Worship with
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, 10 December – Advent 2

11.00 am – Morning Worship with
Sacrament of Baptism

Sunday, 17 December – Advent 3

11.00 am – Morning Worship

Christmas Eve

11.00 am : Christmas Service of Carols & Lessons
4.00 pm : Christingle Service

Christmas Day

11.00 am : Family Service





Girl Guiding in Muirhouse

This year the **Rainbows** have been busy; they visited Lauriston Farm twice – in May to see fruit and vegetables growing and again in September to see them harvested. They even got to take home a few veg to make into soup. Back at the church the sunflowers they planted grew to enormous heights and made a much admired display along the east wall of the church.

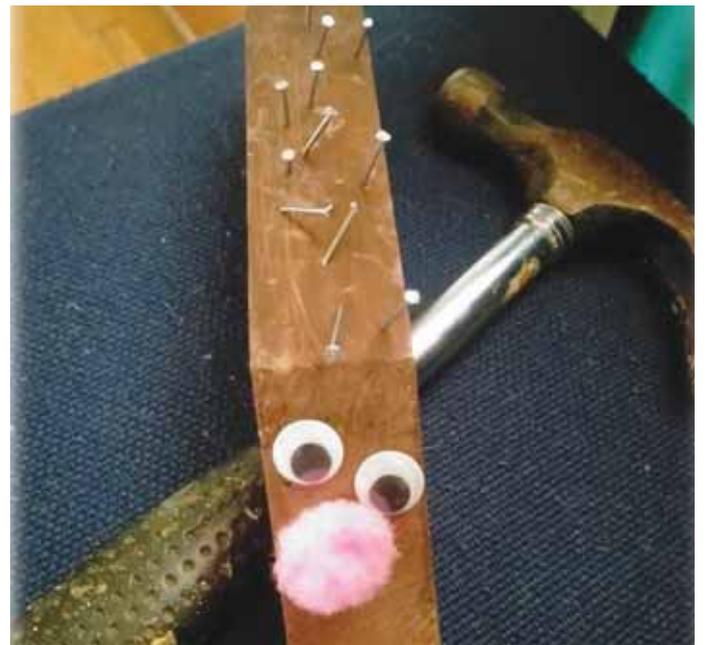
The **Brownies** have had lots of fun working towards badges by practising money skills, learning to use tools and doing science experiments. They've also been out locally, litter picking and making sandcastles on the beach.

The **Guides** and **Rangers** have focused on their first aid skills, learning valuable life-saving CPR and bandaging techniques. To add to the fun, we created wounds using FX make-up. We enjoyed the Gang Show recently especially as one of our Rangers was taking part.

We are also busy planning next year's camp which we hope will be another huge success.

If you would like to volunteer or your daughter would like to join our waiting list please visit:

www.girlguiding.org.uk



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Christmas Journey



Dear Friends,

Christmas for most of us is a great time for travelling. As we head towards the great day, we can find ourselves caught up in the Christmas rush, searching for cards and gifts, for trees to decorate our homes, and of course to order/buy the food to make the day something special. Many of us too will travel near and far to be with family or friends or we will await their arrival to welcome them to our homes.

As we read the Gospel narratives, we will discover that those involved in the first Christmas were not at home. Mary and Joseph had to make their way from Nazareth to Bethlehem, about 70 to 80 miles. It could not have been easy for them, Mary being heavily pregnant, their journey would have been weary with their minds filled with anxiety and worry, with no welcome at their journey's end.

The shepherds having heard the song of the Angels in the night's sky singing of the birth of God's son, left their flocks and hurried to Bethlehem 'to see this thing which had come to pass'. Having found the child with his mother they worshipped him, then they returned home full of joy and gladness.

The Wise Men journeyed from much further afield: some suggest from Persia others say from India or even China. It was a journey that must have taken many weeks or months before arriving at their destination. We read that on their arrival they entered not a stable but a house to worship the Christ child.

Yet it could be said that when God came in the person of his son Jesus, he travelled the greatest distance of all. In coming to earth, He left his heavenly glory to bring salvation to humankind. Paul tells us that 'God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself'.

As we approach Christmas are we not also called to make a journey, not a secular one to the shops or supermarket but a spiritual one? In faith and in the spirit of humility to travel even unto Bethlehem to worship the Saviour of the world. Only if we are willing to make that journey will we find Jesus. Only if we find Jesus will we know forgiveness from our sins, peace with God and the assurance of heaven. Jesus said 'Seek and you will find': that is his promise. From the time of Christ's birth countless men and women have made that journey and discovered his presence for themselves and we too can know he is with us when we invite him into our hearts and lives. Let us then this Christmas travel unto Bethlehem and welcome Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

Every blessing

Rev Alex Douglas

Locum Minister at The Old Kirk and Muirhouse

The Boys' Brigade celebrates in Muirhouse!



On Sunday, 8 October in the Old Kirk & Muirhouse Church, the 66th Edinburgh Boys' Brigade Company marked 60 years in Muirhouse. At the same time they celebrated 140 years since the founding of the BB. Captain Andrew Hay with representatives of the Battalion, retired members, officers and members of all sections joined the congregation on a wild and stormy morning so it was appropriate in more ways than one to end the service singing 'Will your anchor hold in the storms of life.' Rev Alex Douglas led the service which included the Harvest Thanksgiving, and children from Sunday Funday and from the younger BB sections helped him with the all-age talk. Ian Montgomery, Battalion Secretary, spoke on behalf of the wider organisation and was invited to cut a cake which everyone enjoyed later in the hall.

The Company and Senior sections meet online on Thursdays for badge work and Dungeons and Dragons. The Anchor and Junior Sections, aided by the Seniors, now meet on Mondays at 6.15 pm for games, crafts and varied themed activities. They have space for more boys and girls so if any want to join they'll be made very welcome.

LIFE AND WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

It's almost time to order next year's magazines. Thank you to all current subscribers for their loyalty and please encourage more people to subscribe to this very worthwhile magazine.

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 Church of Scotland, it also aims to cover a broad range of subjects of interest to church-goers: from international affairs and British political and social issues, to science, ethics, the arts and health.

If you would like to become a new subscriber please contact Sandra Haggarty at Cramond Kirk via office@cramondkirk.org.uk or Helen Fisher at The Old Kirk and Muirhouse via tokandmchurch@gmail.com and they will be delighted to arrange this for you.

Alternatively contact the Life and Work office (0131 460 7487, www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe) and have your copies delivered to your home. There is also an option for digital subscription.

A SEASONAL WORD PUZZLE

Use the letters of HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL to fill in the blanks.

For example, Christmas greetings to all in Edinburgh Northwest PARISH!

THINGS TO DO IN DECEMBER

1. Decorate home with H _ _ _ _ and ivy.
2. S _ _ _ for Christmas cards and S _ _ _ _ _ . P _ _ _ by 18th December (second class).
3. Go to Cramond Kirk's Christmas Fair on 2nd December with plenty C _ _ _ in purse! All proceeds go to C _ _ _ _ _ .
4. If it's C _ _ _ _ _ and there are no H _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ put on a C _ _ _ H _ _ and C _ _ _ and go C _ _ _ _ _ singing.
5. Enjoy a Nativity P _ _ _ . There is always a C _ _ _ of fine young A _ _ _ _ _ .
6. At 3 o'clock on Christmas Day, settle in a comfortable C _ _ _ _ _ to listen to the R _ _ _ _ _ address. S _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ like Only Fools and Horses are also likely to be on!
7. When it gets dark, look for a bright S _ _ _ in the sky and think of the first Christmas.

Answers on page 10

CHRISTMAS FAIR BENEFICIARIES



Fresh Start is an Edinburgh-based charity helping people who have been homeless get established in their new homes.



Esperanza supports vulnerable families, refugees and migrants around Muirhouse.

Christmas Fair proceeds will be shared between **Esperanza, Fresh Start and Edinburgh Northwest Kirk**

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Winter Needs - Church and Community Working Together

During winter 2022/23 The Old Kirk & Muirhouse (TOK&M) was successful in obtaining a 'Household Hardship Fund' grant of £5,000 from the Corra Foundation/National Lottery Community Fund. The aim was to help those most in need, primarily during the winter months, with the funding having to be used by June 2023.

Our congregation has a history of generous giving and helping with appeals and the grant, along with donations from the congregation, allowed us to respond to local families who came to us, struggling to buy even basics. Our local R2 North Edinburgh Response & Recovery Group Member Organisations also advised us what requests they were receiving.

We were able to provide:

- Food including ingredients to ensure no one missed Christmas dinner. We also made sure no one was turned away who required food over Christmas and New Year when local organisations were closed,
- Fuel vouchers for heating and lighting,
- Bus tickets to help people travelling to hospital appointments and job interviews,
- Clothing, footwear, warm coats,
- Duvets and blankets,
- Toiletry packs,
- Pet food.

We reached out to local schools to ask what support the church could offer while also building on the existing relationships. We met family support teachers and head teachers as well as pupils. We were in awe of the work and support the schools were providing, not only for the pupils but also for their families. It also opened our eyes to the struggles that some in the community were going through. It was very upsetting but TOK&M realised how their financial gifts would make a huge difference to many.

We pray for everyone in our community who is facing need. We hope as a church to be able to offer help this winter.

Karen Woodcock and June Young
Elders at the Old Kirk and Muirhouse



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Cramond Kirk
At the heart of the community

Cramond Kirk Visiting Team
befriending, supporting, caring about and
helping the less able and the elderly
in our community

Christmas Service

In the main Kirk Hall

Thursday, 14 December

Service starts at 2 pm
Doors open from 1.30 pm

Lots of singing, chat and entertainment.
And lots of tasty treats for afternoon tea!!

ALL are welcome !!



Further information from Cramond Kirk Office
Tel : 336 2036
E-mail : office@cramondkirk.org.uk

FreshStart

helping people make a home for themselves

As we approach Christmas and the end of another year, we would like to take the opportunity offered by Grapevine to thank all our supporters in the new Edinburgh Northwest Kirk parish.

Fresh Start has changed over the years with further services, such as the Pantry, Cooking Classes and Gardening, added but the desire to help end homelessness has not changed and to that end the continued supply of goods to transform a bare framework into a home is still an ongoing requirement.

Over the year the donations for Starter Pack goods have been so generous and the response to Harvest Thanksgiving most welcome while the fund raising events hosted by Heather and Cathy of the Gathering Space Café merit special thanks. We also thank the great local "Knitters and Natters" for their steady supply of beautifully knitted colourful blankets.

We are humbled by the ongoing generosity and give you all sincere thanks.

We wish you all a happy, peaceful Christmas

The Fresh Start Team

www.freshstartweb.org.uk

Meet Michael Okpara



Michael Okpara is an ordained Presbyterian minister from Nigeria. His Christian faith was established through attending Sunday school in the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria. In 1992, upon completing secondary school, he experienced the profound love and grace of God, which led him to follow Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. Since then, he has

continued to grow in his faith, deepening his understanding of God's word and will. Michael is particularly passionate about preaching, teaching, ecumenism and empowering underprivileged individuals to discover the beauty and joy of existence.

In 2021 Michael was awarded a scholarship by Desmond Tutu and the Church of Scotland to pursue his master's degree in biblical studies at the University of Edinburgh. He has been participating in the worship and life of Edinburgh Northwest Kirk – The Old Kirk & Muirhouse and has been accepted as an admission candidate.

Michael has a supportive wife, Bethel. They are blessed with five children, Prince, Joseph, Treasure, Chidinma, and Angel. As a family they enjoy engaging in prayer, scriptural study, singing and playing games.

Mr. Okpara is always enthusiastic about meeting new people and learning their stories.

SAT 9TH DECEMBER

MATINEE 2PM

EVENING 7PM

CRAMOND KIRK HALLS



Cramond Drama Group are in their first year of operation and are delighted to be performing their first-ever show this month! Their pantomime, Treasure Cramond Island, is family-friendly and full of fun!

With two performances at the Kirk Halls on Saturday 9th December it's sure to be a hilarious addition to the festive calendar. The group meet at the Kirk on Monday evenings and would love some more members to join them in the new year so their next venture can be bigger and (even) better!

Follow them on Facebook / Instagram for more details, or visit

<https://www.cramondassociation.org.uk/cramond-drama>

CROSSREACH CHRISTMAS CARDS

The CrossReach Christmas card & calendar collection for 2023 is now available. A few catalogues can be found at the Cramond Kirk doors and the full catalogue is also online at shop.crossreach.org.uk.

Please support the work of CrossReach as you prepare for Christmas.

EXERCISE YOUR LITTLE GREY CELLS!



Cryptic Christmas Quiz

Great stocking filler



Available at:

Christmas Fair, Christmas Tree Festival,
church services or contact the office

Gift voucher for the winner – **GOOD LUCK!!!**

WANTED!

Grapevine Editor

Do you have writing and editing skills?

Can you spare a few hours to volunteer these skills and benefit the local community and churches?

The Grapevine Team would welcome a new Editor to commission articles and photography, sub copy, and liaise with the printer over layouts.

Lots of assistance will be provided: contributions / proof-checking / advertising support.

The Grapevine is published four times a year, and delivered to every home in the area.

For an informal chat and further info, please contact office@cramondkirk.org.uk / 0131 336 2036



YOUNG GRAPEVINE

We wish you a merry Christmas...



CRAMOND KIRK SUNDAY CLUB



Every Sunday morning
10 am - 11 am
at Cramond Kirk

From 2 - 17 years old : all are welcome
Come & join us for stories, games, craft, baking & much, much more

See you at the Christmas Fair!
Cramond Kirk Halls
Saturday 2nd Dec.
11 am to 1 pm

WHAT'S ON

Youth Organisations at Cramond Kirk and The Old Kirk & Muirhouse

Rainbows
Brownies
Guides
Rangers

Beavers
Cubs
Scouts
Explorers

Anchors
Boys' Brigade

More information on the website

THE OLD KIRK & MUIRHOUSE

Sunday Funday Club
Every Sunday at 11 am

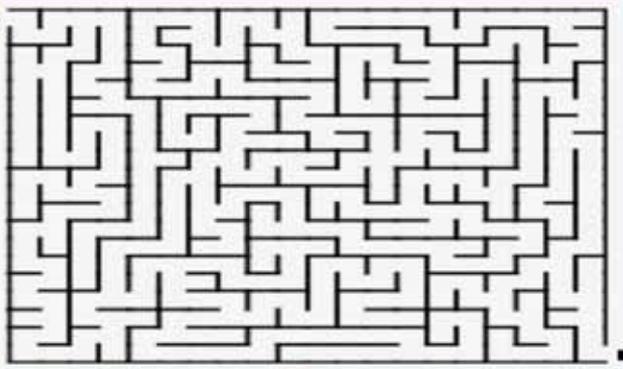
Game Group Sundays
Fortnightly at 1 pm

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Christmas Tree Festival
including Hunt for Angels and Stars

Christmas Day Family Services
Bring along one of your gifts to show us!

Make your way to one of our Christmas Tree Festivals at Cramond Kirk and at The Old Kirk & Muirhouse 10th to 17th December

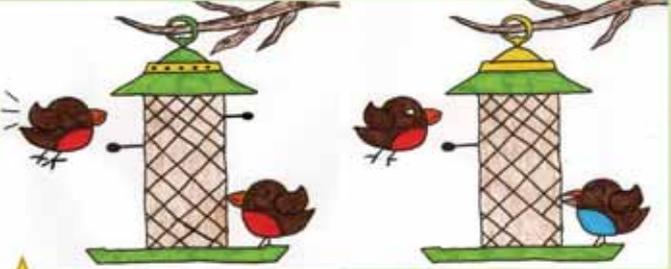



Can you find 10 yellow stars on this page?



PLEASE LOOK AFTER THE WILDLIFE THIS WINTER

Can you spot 10 differences?

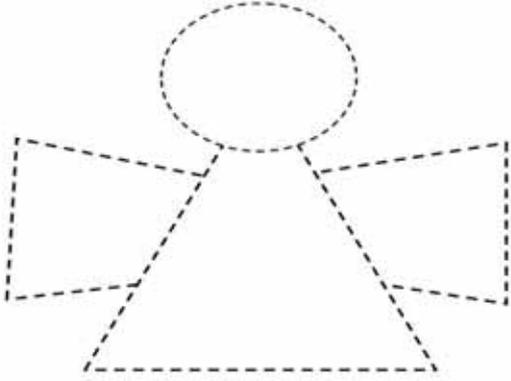


What do you call a snowman in summer?



A puddle!

Complete the drawing




NATIVITY WORD SEARCH

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | N | H | Y | T | O | K | J | S | O |
| P | A | E | H | D | G | S | U | H | V |
| T | T | D | P | S | O | S | E | E | H |
| W | I | S | E | M | E | N | L | P | D |
| Y | V | T | S | J | V | B | K | H | H |
| T | I | A | O | S | A | N | G | E | L |
| M | T | R | J | T | D | M | A | R | Y |
| S | Y | A | S | Y | V | N | U | D | Y |
| A | B | E | K | G | I | F | T | S | E |
| B | E | T | H | L | E | H | E | M | K |



ANGEL BETHLEHEM DONKEY GIFTS
JESUS JOSEPH MARY NATIVITY
SHEPHERDS STABLE STAR WISE MEN

Where did Rudolph go to school?



He didn't.
He was 'elf-taught!!



...And a happy New Year!

Christmas Tree Festival 2023

It's that season again! As Advent approaches the popular Christmas Tree Festival returns in Cramond Kirk.

Last year over 20 trees from schools, church and community groups adorned the Kirk and what a wonderful sight it was!

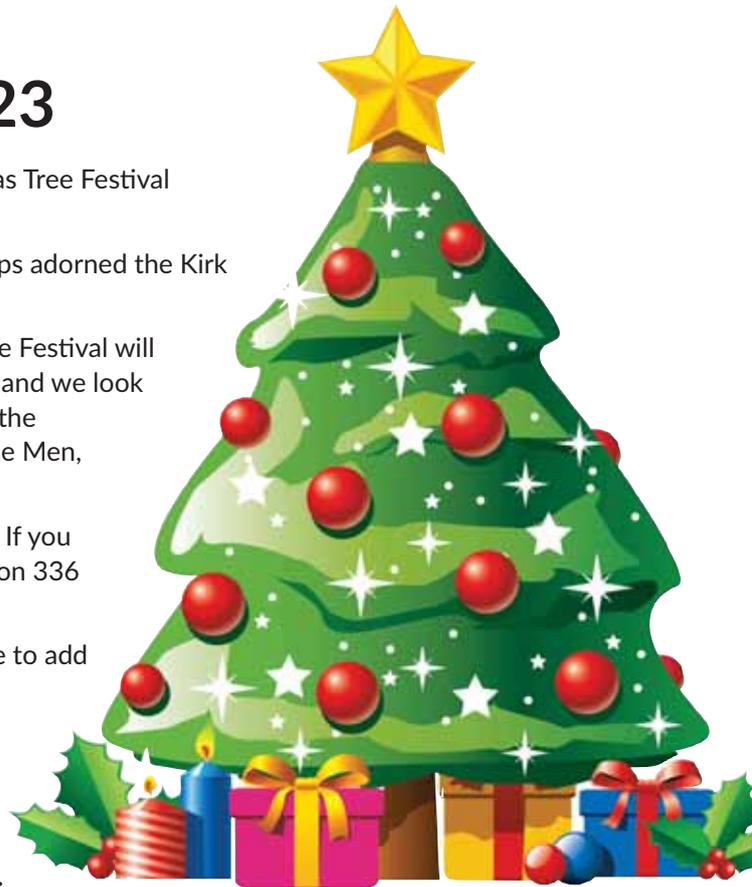
The Kirk's theme for Advent is "From darkness came light" and the Festival will reflect **The Nativity Story**. Stars and Angels are the leading lights and we look forward to seeing each tree representing a character or aspect of the Christmas story - Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Bethlehem, shepherds, Wise Men, innkeeper, sheep and many more!

We are hoping to have as many trees as possible on display again. If you would like your group to take part, please contact the Kirk Office on 336 2036 or at office@cramondkirk.org.uk.

As in previous years, a memory tree will provide a place for people to add names of loved ones.

The Festival will run from 10 - 17 December. There is no entry charge but donations for the three Christmas charities would be welcome.

The Old Kirk and Muirhouse will also be running a Christmas Tree Festival from 10 - 17 December. Look out for details of this in the Kirk Announcements.



Cramond Kirk's Christmas Tree Festival
 Sunday 10th to Sunday 17th December 2023

Come and view a whole Kirk-full of trees decorated in the theme of The Nativity Story

OPENING TIMES

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Sunday 10 th | 8.45 am Service & 10 am Service |
| Monday 11 th | 6.30 pm to 8 pm |
| Tuesday 12 th | 10 am to noon |
| Wednesday 13 th | 7 pm Christmas Comes Alive in Words & Music |
| Thursday 14 th | 6.30 pm to 8 pm |
| Saturday 16 th | 2 pm to 5 pm |
| Sunday 17 th | 8.45 am Service & 10 am Service |

Where did Christmas stockings come from?



No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4th century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was of a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on.

WORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

1. HOLLY 2. SHOP, STAMPS, POST 3. CASH, CHARITY 4. CHILLY, HAILSTORMS, COSY HAT, COAT, CAROL
 5. PLAY, CAST, ACTORS 6. CHAIR, ROYAL, SITCOMS 7. STAR

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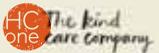
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Murrayfield House Providing luxury care to older people in Edinburgh



Cramond Walkers

Cramond Walkers have a varied programme on a mix of days, now including some Tuesdays. About two-thirds of walks are by car share from Barnton Avenue West and the others by bus or meet at the start. Most walks are around 8 to 12 km (5 to 8 miles) starting mid-morning. We recommend carrying a drink and packed lunch. Reports with photos are on Cramond Walkers' Facebook page. Organisers are Fiona Black and Simon Gillam. For more details and any updates email cramond.walkers@yahoo.co.uk or see Cramond Kirk website.

Friday 1 December: Cardrona Forest 6.5 km

After refreshments at the Scots Pine tearoom, spaces will be found in cars for all to travel eight miles to Cardrona Forest car park. We will head into the forest on good tracks, on a loop that includes Cardrona Tower, Castle Knowe and Pikes Knowe.

Meet: Barnton Avenue West at 9.30 or Scots Pine Tearoom north of Eddleston at 10.15 (bus X62 at 9.10 from Edinburgh bus station arrives 10.16)

Saturday 16 December: Cammo and party at Fiona's 4 km

From Cramond Brig we walk along the River Almond to Grotto Bridge, then up to Cammo's north gate. In Cammo we take a shorter route than our last visit, but still including Cammo House, Walled Garden, other ruins and wetland and we will see several changes. We could include a diversion to the Water Tower and Mauseley Hill, omitted last time, and possibly into Cammo Meadows development. We then head to Fiona's for a party from 3pm.

Meet: Cramond Brig (old brig) at 1pm



CHRISTMAS CARD APPEAL

If you have any spare, unused Christmas cards with envelopes that you just don't know what to do with, please donate them to Cramond Kirk. We can use them to make up variety packs for 2024! Cards with their envelopes can be put in the box outside the Kirk office until 31st January 2024.

Following last year's appeal, we have 41 packs of assorted Christmas cards which will be on sale at the Christmas Fair. Thank you to everyone who donated.



A Christmas Poem

The night before Christmas when all are abed,
As reindeer and sleigh bells are heard overhead,
Children still sleeping will early arise,
With shouts of delights as they open each prize.

A doll for Amanda, a toy soldier for Jo?
Ah, these are toys of long ago!
Now it's computers, a party dress,
Gifts so expensive they're meant to impress.

But the real joy of Christmas forever will stay,
As church bells and carols proclaim that glad day,
As wise men and shepherds recount what they saw,
Of Mary, her Baby – and a bed full of straw.

By Megan Carter



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CHRISTMAS FAIR AT CRAMOND KIRK

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11 am – 1 pm
in CRAMOND KIRK HALL

GIFTS * CRAFTS
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CANDY * HAMPERS
SANTA * LUNCHES
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All proceeds to go to Fresh Start,
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Cash only please

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The Kirk Office is open
Monday to Friday,
9.15 am to 12.15 pm
and is situated in the
Kirk Hall.

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David Haggarty,
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please call
0131 312 6911 or
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