

The Church of Scotland
PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH
Cramond Parish Church

April 2016
Updated to January 2021

**(Incorporates previous format
of January to March 2016)**

**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?

Please type in relevant box and it will expand to fit your text.

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.

During the pandemic, our organist returned to play for Sunday worship in July 2020.

No singing has been permitted since March 2020 due to the pandemic.

Towards the end of 2020 hymns were reintroduced to a few services from recordings by some of our paid choir members. A solo singer sang at the Christmas services and musicians played before the Watchnight service.

In January 2021, as pandemic restrictions tightened again, our on-line services included recordings from singers, our organist and young musicians of the congregation.

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.

In 2018, there were 23 baptisms and one service of blessing. Dr Barr has developed a baptismal liturgy which enables young people to participate in the sacrament, by reading certain parts of it. The younger children still say the words of welcome and present the baptismal certificates and posies of flowers. This additional involvement of young people has been welcomed by baptismal families and members of the congregation.

In March 2019 our Annual Youth Service, traditionally with the Uniformed Organisations, was extended to include Cramond Primary School Glee Club, Cargilfield School, Sunday Club, Scouts and Guides. The children led the worship with readings, songs and music on the theme of "Promises".

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, cello, 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.

Four of our young people were invited to take part in an evening service at the General Assembly in May 2018, to share some of their experiences of being part of the life and worship of 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.

Early in 2020 Sunday Club is focusing on learning about Communion. Our resources include a recent publication from the Church of Scotland, "Together at the Table" which aims to explore policies and practices in welcoming and including all ages in Holy communion.

The 2020 youth service was led by youngsters from Guiding, Cargilfield School, Sunday Club and our Youth Orchestra. The service focused on caring for the environment. Two Rainbow and one Ranger flags were dedicated during the service.

In May 2020 Dr Barr led a session, teaching and leading the children through a Communion service on-line.

Children and youngsters read from the Bible for some of the on-line services. The Sunday Club featured throughout the whole of the on-line service produced for the Sunday that would normally have been their end of year service.

The Sunday Club recorded a Nativity video for 2020, which was included on the kirk website and Facebook page.

Children continue to take part in the on-line services of 2021.

A request in April 2018 for an assistant bell ringer to help cover holidays and other absences produced an enthusiastic response from the Sunday Club as well as members of the congregation. There is now a rota of people who are able to ring the church bell for five minutes preceding morning worship.

Three of our young musicians played for the service of Lessons and Carols 2020. One was recoded on the flute as it was not permissible to play live under the restrictions.

At 6pm on Christmas Eve 2020, the bell was rung as we joined in with a national call to ring bells for festive cheer.

Two of our young musicians played their own medley on an array of instruments, during the lead-in to the Watchnight service of 2020.

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.

Dr Barr prepared a special service which took place on Saturday 3 November 2018 as part of the National Day of Prayer for the Church of Scotland.

Scouting in Cramond celebrated their 75th Anniversary with a gathering, including former members from throughout the world. Events took place over the first weekend in October 2019 and our Minister led a special service with the Scouts on the Sunday morning.

YMCA Scotland celebrated their 150th Anniversary in November 2019. With

one of our Elders, John Naylor having been their chair, we gladly held their anniversary service in Cramond.

In March 2020 we went into lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The week before full shut down, the church was open for private prayer only. We included a prayer prepared by the Moderator of the General Assembly, The Rt Rev Colin Sinclair.

Our Ministry team quickly adapted to presenting on-line. Daily devotions lasting around 5 minutes, Pause for Thought on Thursday evenings, a short Sunday service and a Children's address all became regular features available through our website and Facebook pages. Our on-line congregation now ranges locally, nationally and internationally.

An on-line Communion was led by Dr Barr on the first Sunday in June to coincide with when one of our main Communion services would have been held. The congregation were informed before the service and therefore "attended" with elements of their choice.

Sustaining the on-line presence is under review as the pandemic restrictions are reduced and the Ministry team require more time to attend to other duties.

The church doors were opened again on Wednesday 15th July 2020. The sanctuary was opened on both Sunday mornings 10-12 and Wednesdays 5-7pm, for private prayer as this was all that was permitted.

As restrictions eased we were the first Church of Scotland building in Edinburgh to open for worship. Two short services are held on a Sunday. The duty Elders assist the Beadle to make the building safe under the guidelines set by the Church of Scotland in the document COVID-19 (coronavirus) – Opening of Church Buildings. Bookings for the maximum 50 attendees at each service are currently over-subscribed.

For the last Sunday with the Very Reverend Dr Russell Barr as our Minister three short services were held in the church. They were streamed to the Kirk Halls to allow more people to be present under the restrictions, and everyone was able to speak with Dr and Mrs Barr afterwards. This was the first time we had streamed services. One service was also streamed live to the internet and an edited version was made available on-line later.

On Christmas Eve 2020 we held an early evening Christingle service and a Watchnight service. A further service was held on Christmas morning. All three services were streamed live to the internet.

Enabling people to participate from the warmth and safety of their own homes negated the planned streaming to the Kirk Halls for extra seating.

A grant of £400 was received from Presbytery's Mission Fund which helped finance the professional filming and streaming of the Christmas services. We have now invested in equipment to do this ourselves.

In January 2021 restrictions tightened again, permitting only 20 for worship, followed by re-closure of churches from Monday 4th. The on-line services continued throughout and now involve more people, each filming from their own homes.

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.

Cramond Kirk participated in Doors Open Day on 29 and 30 September 2018. Stewards were on hand in the Kirk to greet a total of 110 visitors from several different countries. An added attraction in the Halls on the 29th was a family-friendly exhibition entitled "Frontiers of the Roman Empire."

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.

The Cargilfield School Choir were guest performers at the Sunday evening Songs of Praise service during Christian Aid Week in 2018. Several parents and staff members also attended the service.

On Monday 23 December we hosted a Christmas Club in partnership with the Old Kirk and Muirhouse and Drylaw Parish Church and supported by a grant of

£250 from the Presbytery's Mission Fund. The 3 hour club celebrated the Christian meaning of Christmas with craft, dance, games and songs and was attended by about 75 children from the three communities, many of whom had no active church involvement.

The on-line presence built up during the COVID19 pandemic has proved more popular than expected, perhaps especially for those self-isolating, elderly or frail. It has attracted viewers worldwide, and it is now felt essential to continue an on-line presence.

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.

We recognised that Sunday morning is not always a good time for children to be at church, often due to sporting activities or a family simply needing time together. As a result we have introduced "Sweaty Church". This is an activities based couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon. Three events have been run, in May, August and November 2019 with mixed success. Around 40 children, of various faiths, came to the last event. The next, in February 2020, is to be a children's ceilidh.

The February 2020 Sweaty Church included haggis curling and Tunnocks teacakes and was very successful.

In March 2020 Sunday Club swiftly moved onto Zoom, an on-line platform. 25 households were regularly linked on Sunday mornings. A recorded, or live Children's Church was shared together, and breakout rooms used for the different classes.

As soon as possible our Sunday club met outdoors in the manse garden. The older children did not meet for a couple of months but some took part in the on-line services. When the restrictions tightened in January 2021 Sunday Club moved back to a virtual meeting. There are two well attended classes with the younger ones at 10am and the older children at 11am.

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.

The Minister has introduced monthly services at Cramond Residence, a new elderly care home very close to the church. Although we are looking to help with transport many residents are unable to attend Sunday morning worship.

A further care home, Queens Manor, opened in 2019 and monthly services are being provided by our Ministerial Team.

An inaugural concert by our music group CADMIUM was well received at Cramond Residence. More concerts are in the pipeline for here and Queens Manor.

In December 2018 we contacted former members of our Sunday Club most of whom are in higher education or working away from home but return to Edinburgh for Christmas. Six of the youngsters participated in the service of Lessons and Carols, others read at the Watchnight service. Many of those who could not attend said they had been pleased to feel they were not forgotten.

Similar contact was made at Christmas 2019 with previous Sunday Club members under the age of 40. Nine met over a light meal in the Halls and some participated in the Christmas services. We hope to engage more with this age group which has been highlighted as a target group in the Radical Action Plan of the General Assembly.

Three new members joined our congregation by profession of faith in May 2019.

Our congregation has been encouraged to support the Edinburgh Street Pastors initiative of helping people to come to church. We have notices displayed and are aware that visitors may arrive with a matching card, provided by the street pastors, to help ease their introduction to the church.

Our Pop-up Café mentioned below (1:3) is underway. Our Assistant Minister, Iain Majcher, is aiming to build on relationships in this setting, with the hope of a "Pop-up Church". The form of this is yet to emerge and may include the use of Godly Play teaching methods.

Some 700 new homes are to be built on the edge of our parish at Cammo Fields. We are preparing to give new owners a leaflet containing information about the church and surrounding community. We are also supporting the building of a community hub which we see as an opportunity for outreach.

With the Edinburgh, Doors Open Day being a virtual event in 2020 we are preparing a film of the church which will be available on our website from mid September onwards. The church has also been used as the venue for two musicians from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra to record for the event.

The short history film produced for Doors Open Day 2020 was highly

commended by The Cockburn Association who organised the event.

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.

The number of visiting team members continues to grow, due in part to the invitation in the "Cramond Cares" stewardship campaign to offer time and talents. There are currently 30 people in the Kirk's visiting team, with 33 people being visited. The visiting team leader is working with others in the Kirk and in the community to develop a more coordinated approach to elderly care.

During the pandemic of 2020 the Visiting Team leader is keeping her team in good spirits with weekly emails. The team continues regular contact with visitees by phone and e-mails and plans to start visits to their homes as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Visiting Team has sent cards, information packs and small gifts to the visitees on many occasions throughout the pandemic, and the Visiting Team has increased in number.

Several hundred cards made by children at Cramond Primary, Cargilfield School and some of the Uniformed Organisations, were distributed to elderly people in the community at Easter and harvest 2020.

One of the outcomes of "Cramond Cares" has been the appointment in autumn 2018 of a Pastoral Care Assistant, whose main roles are to develop an information and resource hub about services available to older people in the community and to develop further a befriending service.

2019 has seen the information hub blossom beyond expectation. Diane Williams, our Pastoral Care Assistant, has positioned herself openly in the gathering space so as to be easily approachable. (see 1:2) and trust is building in this service.

Past months have seen a surge in conversations with users of our Halls. A small team of volunteers join people in the gathering space on Thursday mornings ready to talk with and listen to any passers-by. There is a need for many to talk and for others to listen, and the resources of the information hub have become a source of help not only for the elderly. Out of this a "Pop-up Café" has arisen, providing coffee and tea. The hub not only provides information on practical matters but helps address the issues of social isolation and loneliness.

Due to the success of the Pop-up Café, we hope to expand to second day

provided enough volunteers can be found.

During lockdown, a grant of £900 from Edinburgh Council allowed the purchase of new tables, mugs and a coffee machine for the cafe.

A leaflet containing a list of home delivery companies was created and delivered to all the houses in the parish. This was funded by a grant of £1000 from the Baird Trust. Volunteers from the church and community delivered the leaflets. A further leaflet is planned.

During the pandemic our volunteers were not permitted to deliver the Grapevine in February 2021, but some of the Baird Trust funding allowed us to pay for distribution by a delivery company.

A neighbourhood group, Cramond Volunteers, formed during lockdown and we have worked in partnership providing help to members of the parish throughout lockdown. We plan to continue and build on this initiative.

Post-pandemic plans for the Pop-Up Café include provision from an outside caterer.

In 2020, Christmas cards were delivered to everyone in the parish which included helpline numbers for any feeling lonely or in need of support.

As the traditional gift service was not possible in December 2020, toys were collected over the weeks before and taken directly to the Old Kirk and Muirhouse Parish Church.

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).

The Almond Mains Group fell casualty to a lack of funding and closure during the pandemic. New initiatives for care of the elderly are to be explored as the pandemic retreats.

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.

In the course of our programme of property maintenance, it was noticed in 2018 that some new chairs were needed in the Halls. Bearing in mind the dementia friendly advice we had been given about colour contrasts, the appropriate Hall user groups were consulted to help decide on the colour of the new chairs.

Dementia friendly aspects are included in our 2020 plans for improvements to the Kirk Halls.

We have progressed the works in the Kirk Halls during the pandemic. (see 1:8)

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.

Our Parish Committee has successfully encouraged several members of the congregation to offer lifts to and from church to people who would otherwise have difficulty in attending services. A car transport rota came into operation in the summer of 2018.

We are exploring ways to provide more transport for those who cannot easily get to church. We have asked for volunteers to act as escorts on a minibus which we plan to hire. Two volunteers have now received training.

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.

The number of CDs requiring distribution has fallen to 2-3 a week. This is most likely as a result of more people using the Web instead, and also that the people who took or received the CDs have become infirm.

During the pandemic the Technology (and Communications) Committee has assisted parishioners to access online services and meetings, which has helped keep them connected to their families, the community and church activities.

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.

Elders and volunteers continue to attend Safeguarding training events at other venues, and one will be held in Cramond in 2020.

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.

In March 2019 we held a seminar for the congregation. Our guest speaker was Khuram Akram from the Blackhall Mosque. Khuram, a pharmacist by profession, is the Mosque's safeguarding lead and a member of their educational team. He presented the capacity audience an engaging insight into "The Five Pillars of Islam".

In response to Session's thirst for understanding of the Radical Action Plan, which was approved by the 2019 General Assembly, a further seminar was held for the congregation in November. Our guest speaker was the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers who was appointed as the first Convenor of the Assembly Trustees. Some 80 members of the congregation attended the very informative presentation

Members of the Kirk Session Seminar and congregation attended a shortened seminar in early March 2020. A reduced programme ensued due to the start of COVID19, but allowed for a talk from Viv Dickenson, CEO of Crossreach, who raised awareness of the organisation and the mounting challenges it faced with the pandemic.

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.

Two defibrillator training sessions are taking place in 2020.

A public access defibrillator cabinet was purchased through Edinburgh Presbytery. This now houses our defibrillator at the entrance to the Kirk Halls.

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

A Godly Play study day was co-ordinated by one of our Elders and attended by another. It was led by Martin Steinhauser from Germany who explained the new materials they have developed to tell of the life of Jesus. We are now incorporating some of these into our Sunday Club lessons.

Our Assistant Minister, the Reverend Stanley Okeke, started a Bible Study group in August 2019. It has been well attended and will continue fortnightly on Wednesday evening. The first resource used was John Ortberg's study guide, "If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out The Boat". The psalms have provided the theme into the New Year.

When the pandemic struck, the Bible Study group was quickly resurrected on-line and led by Dr Barr. The group continues to meet fortnightly and we have a new member who lives in Nairobi, Kenya.

Rev Ian Gilmour took on leadership of the Bible study group upon the retiral of Dr Barr and it continues to thrive on fortnightly virtual meetings.

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

A Year of Young People Family Fun Day followed the Sunday Club Summer Service on 10 June 2018, when families had fun taking part in games, activities and taster sessions including yoga, knitting and Lego building before enjoying a barbecue. The event also raised over £500 for the Sunday Club's chosen charities KnitAid and the Marine Conservation Society.

A Year of Young People Concert, featuring musicians, singers and dancers

aged 25 and under, was organised by the Sunday Club members. It took place on 23 June 2018 and was a great success. In addition, almost £300 was raised for Sistema Scotland's Big Noise charity.

We have a regular Fair Trade stall and the last few years have seen increasing involvement of the children. The Sunday Club members have co-hosted our annual Fair Trade event, raising awareness of the needs of producers in developing countries whilst also collecting money for the Turi project, Mary's Meals and the Fair Trade foundation.

Fair Trade Fortnight 2020 was once again promoted by an after church event. John Riches of Just Trading Scotland gave a talk, Sunday Club provided refreshments and we were supported by the local Scotmid store. Photos taken on the day appeared on the FT Foundation, One World Shop and Scotmid websites.

During the pandemic occasional sessions were held on-line for older youngsters, which brought them together for a partially Bible based, social time-out from the tedium of lockdown.

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.

Sunday 22 April 2018 was the 25th anniversary of Dr Barr's induction as the Minister at Cramond Kirk. To celebrate the occasion, members of the congregation joined Dr and Mrs Barr at a reception in the Halls after morning worship.

Over £1,300 was raised at a Cabaret Supper in aid of the Turi Children's

Project, held at the Royal Burgess Golf Club on 18 May 2018. Octavoce, a choir of eight local young people, provided the evening's entertainment.

We continue to make regular donations to the Turi Children's Project and sent an extra £300 in December 2020.

Older members of the Sunday Club and their leaders enjoyed a Spooky Sleepover in the Kirk Hall on 8 December 2018. Younger ones enjoyed a trip to the cinema to see "Mary Poppins Returns" and afterwards had dinner in Frankie and Benny's.

On 25 January 2019, a Burns coffee morning was held in the Kirk Halls, to mark the 260th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. There was a good turnout from the congregation, who enjoyed coffee, scones, pancakes and shortbread while listening to the music of some of Burns' songs and readings of his poetry.

Cramond and District Mixed Instrument Music group (CADMIUM) was formed in January 2019 and meets regularly on a Monday evening. There is a strong emphasis on enjoyment of music, through playing easy tunes in a group of varied ability. The group has performed at social events in Kirk Halls, after the Visiting Team Christmas service and at the Cramond Residence care home.

In April 2019, members of the congregation filled a coach and enjoyed a trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum in Dundee.

Two afternoon teas have been held in the Kirk Halls for any who wish to attend. "Summer Blooms" in May and "Sing and Eat Cake" in August. Musical entertainment was provided at each event by one of our Elders, who is a pianist. CADMIUM performed at the earlier occasion. Our informal, drop-in choir, Sing for Fun performed and led community singing at the second event when £518 was raised for the Almond Mains Group.

Social events have been organised for our Visiting Team volunteers. Coffee and refreshments at The Old Inn in Davidsons Mains and The Royal Burgess Golf Club have given this group an opportunities of fellowship.

A long established Saturday morning breakfast club continued monthly through the winter of 2019/20 and one week heard from one of our members on their change from Islam to Christianity.

Our associate minister, the Reverend Tom Cuthell, has a wealth of experience in leading trips to Assisi. Several of our congregation have joined him on pilgrimage to the lands of St Francis.

Older Sunday Club members enjoyed another spooky party in November 2019.

A Knit and Natter group started in September 2019. Any who knit, crochet, paint, sew or wish to do craft are welcome to join the group for as long as they can spare on a Thursday evening once a month. **This group moved to on-**

line meetings during lockdown.

A Session dinner was held in honour of Louise Madeley who celebrated 20 years as our church secretary in January 2020.

Sadly, a congregational Burns Supper was cancelled due to lack of numbers.

A long list of planned events for 2020 was been cancelled due to COVID19.

With Remembrance Sunday unable to take place in the normal form, the community were invited to paint pebbles for Remembrance Day 2020. All ages participated and laid their decorated stones along paths leading to the doors of the kirk where they were greatly appreciated by visitors and the congregation alike.

Following the success of the Poppy Pebbles the community have been invited to create Pebbles of Positivity, with a message to brighten the day, and add them along the kirkyard paths.

A Christmas Fair was not possible in 2020, but a highly successful event was held through adaptation of traditional fundraisers and new initiatives. The highlight was a Christmas Tree Festival held in the main sanctuary. Nineteen trees were on display, each provided and decorated by a local organisation. Over 800 visitors viewed the trees including all classes in Cramond Primary school. Proceeds were split between Fresh Start and Cramond Kirk with Fresh Start receiving £2120 of the £3634 raised.

Members of our congregation, two pianists and a young cellist, played background Christmas music during the festival.

The trees were kept in the sanctuary until after Christmas, which was hugely appreciated by the congregation in a year when festivities were very subdued.

A short film was produced with messages of goodwill from our local Post Office, Cramond Association, Head Teachers of Cargilfield School and Cramond Primary, Dr Barr, Rev Stanley Okeke, Rev Iain Majcher amongst others. This was presented on-line before the 2020 Christmas services.

January 2021 saw the opening of a virtual church café to address the adverse effects of social isolation under the pandemic. All are welcome and Elders are encouraged to bring members of their District to the cafe which opens at 11am on Wednesday and Saturdays.

- 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.

In addition to our usual fund raising activities for Christian Aid Week, in 2018 our Christian Aid Convener was sponsored to run in a 10Km race during the Edinburgh Marathon Festival, adding to the grand total of over £9,700.

Our 2019 Christian Aid Week activities saw the addition of "In-a-Box" to raise funds at the Fair. This involved bidding for boxes filled with kits ranging from

help in the garden, office or kitchen to looking after your pet. The total raised over the week was over £10,000.

With Christian Aid Week 2020 becoming a virtual event the congregation was encouraged to donate directly to the charity. Each year one of our Elders grows tomato plants in aid of the charity and this year they raised £350. A quiz was circulated and used by small groups for an evening's entertainment while encouraging more donations.

A sum of £13,500 was raised from the congregation in recognition of Dr Barr's outstanding service at Cramond and donated, at his and Mrs Barr's request, to Fresh Start and Christian Aid.

The Sunday Club and the congregation supported Mary's Meals Backpack Project in the run up to Christmas 2018. They managed to fill 58 backpacks and five bags of stationery, toiletries and clothing which will be given to children in Malawi. Mary's Meals was the beneficiary of the retiring collection at the Sunday Club Christmas Service in December 2018.

We have promoted Fair Trade for many years and, during the pandemic, continued with regular churches notices and encouragement to use fairly trade goods.

In 2019, with a large contribution from Cargilfield School, we oversaw a collection of 150 completed backpacks for Mary's Meals and donations to fill 50 more.

Once again we held a Christmas gift service on the first Sunday in December with the gifts shared with the Old Kirk and Muirhouse and the West Pilton Thrift Shop.

We have accepted an invitation to become a missionary partner of Rev Dr John McCulloch who was inducted as Minister of St Andrew's Church, Jerusalem on Palm Sunday in 2018. We receive regular updates from him describing his life and work in Israel/Palestine. These can be found on the Kirk's website cramondkirk.org.uk by clicking on "About us" then selecting "Cramond Kirk's Missionary Partners." Our Sunday Club have sent cards to Dr McCulloch and his family.

Dr Barr was guest preacher at the Robin Chapel an ecumenical, Christian place of worship in Craigmillar.

In October 2019, around 30 attended a presentation in our Halls by the organization Christian Climate Action and Extinction Rebellion.

Dr Barr has accepted an invitation to preach in Scots Kirk Colombo early in 2020. This is a church which we especially wish to support after Sri Lankan Christians were targeted by suicide bombers in May this year.

Our Ministry Team have held services in the church whenever possible and held on-line services throughout the pandemic. Guest

preachers also led us in worship on occasions during the winter of 20/21. Rev Tony Bryer of the Scottish Episcopal Church preached in the church, and Dr Urzula Glienecke of Greyfriars Kirk presented an on-line Daily Devotion.

In January 2021, 200 religious leaders in Scotland accused the government of wrongful action in closing church buildings to worship. In response, our Locum Minister and Session Clerk had a letter published in The Scotsman newspaper highlighting the work of the church in the time of the pandemic and our need to worship together, but disagreeing with the approach others were taking towards the government.

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 is now repeated annually.

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.

The Christmas Club was repeated in 2018 with families from Drylaw Church and with the help of another £250 grant from the Presbytery's mission fund.

Some 75 children, over the age of 3 years, from our own and neighbouring parishes, attended another fun packed Christmas club in 2019.

A succession of Elders from Cramond Kirk have been appointed as Session Clerks to The Old Kirk and Muirhouse Parish Church (formerly Muirhouse Parish Church). The latest appointment was Graham Madeley in May 2018.

Due to a vacancy, our Minister is Interim Moderator at St Columba's, Blackhall. All of our Ministry Team are helping provide pulpit cover during this time.

Our Data Protection Officer is helping St Columba's, Blackhall and Drylaw Parish church with their data protection compliance.

One of our congregation, Lindsay Thomson, attended the National Youth Assembly in August 2018 and gave a full and enthusiastic report to the Kirk Session the following month.

Another of our congregation, Ishbel Wright, attended the National Youth Assembly in 2019. Her report gave insight into the strong spirit within the Assembly and disappointment that it would be the last time it was to be run in this format.

Ishbel has successfully applied to become the Edinburgh Presbytery Youth Rep for the General Assembly 2020.

Our previous Presbytery Elder, June Kemp was appointed as an Equalizing Elder in September 2020.

Our previous Session Clerk, Sandra Watson is to be an Assessor Elder at Balerno Parish Church from February 2020.

One of our Elders and Sunday Club leaders is a trainer for Godly Play in Scotland and is helping with sessions at Drylaw Parish Church

During Pentecost 2020 we participated in the "Thy Kingdom Come" world prayer initiative with neighbouring churches. Dr Barr provided prayer points to aid participants, and each took part in their own home on the Saturday morning.

In partnership with 3 other local churches, we hosted on-line prayer meetings during Advent 2020.

A second, large housing development is being planned to the south west of our parish. We have had early conversations with Craigsbank and Corstorphine Old Parish Churches, who are also on the boundaries of the area in question, regrading ministry possibilities.

Having been assigned to the West Forth cluster group to develop the Presbytery Plan, we are grouped with Granton, Drylaw, The Old Kirk and Muirhouse, Davidson's Mains Parish and St Columba's, Blackhall churches. We are represented in this group by our Interim Moderator, the Convener of Kirk Session Strategy Group and one of our Elders (who is also a Presbytery Elder). The group continues to meet to plan for Ministry of the whole area, with a report due to Presbytery in late February 2021.

There is recognition that the number of Ministers has declined and the outcome of the Cluster Group discussions will help determine when we might be permitted to call a Minister.

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.

For the 2018 Harvest Festival, the congregation were invited to donate food and cleaning items for Fresh Start starter packs, rather than fresh fruit and vegetables. They responded generously and provided four carloads of items, which were taken to Fresh Start. Colourful pot plants were delivered to over 60 housebound members of the congregation after the service.

The Harvest Festival of 2020 will invite donations for Fresh Start and Christian Aid, and cards designed by children of the Sunday Club and Uniformed organisations will be delivered to the elderly and housebound.

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.

The 2018 Christmas Fair beneficiaries were Multi System Atrophy, Fresh Start and Cramond Kirk.

The 2019 Christmas Fair was run by the Board of the Almond Mains Initiative and raised funds for their purpose as well as Fresh Start and Cramond Kirk.

The 2019 Jumble Sale raised money for Cramond Sea Scouts, Fresh Start and Cramond Kirk. This helped the Scouts purchase a new rescue boat.

The Jumble Sale of March 2020 has been held over until next year due to COVID19

Each year the Jumble sale and Christmas Fair are convened by a different group, giving more people a chance to meet and work with others.

June 2019 we supported Fresh Start's application to the Church of Scotland's Go For It Fund. Their hope is to expand their premises to create a community hub which would include a community kitchen with café style meeting space for local people and a charity shop providing high quality goods at low cost. There would also be a community fridge and pantry providing low cost food for the families in the area and meeting spaces which individuals and other partner organisations could use.

During the pandemic of 2020 the congregation we continued support for Fresh Start with appeals for donations. When the project was

again able to receive goods further appeals were issued.

We invested £20,000 in Castle Community Bank, supporting the Reverend Iain May of South Leith Parish Church in offering affordable lending to those with impaired credit ratings.

Our congregation were encouraged to donate to the Edinburgh Foodbank Christmas appeal resulting in 93kg of food donations.

Biddy Kelly, Managing Director of Fresh Start, was invited as guest speaker for one of our Sunday services in January 2021. Due to the pandemic this was presented on-line, with the benefit that news from Fresh Start was broadcast more widely.

- 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 coach full 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.

In October 2018 our Kirk Session agreed to the Rev Stanley Okeke being appointed to Cramond on a one year Familiarisation Placement. This would help him fulfil his ambition to transfer from the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria.

The Reverend Stanley Okeke was welcomed to Cramond in April 2019. He was joined by his wife and two children, after they obtained their travel visas, three months later. This is the first time the rest of his family have been in Scotland and our congregation is helping to introduce them to life in Edinburgh. Bus passes have been provided and as soon as an appeal went out

for a bicycle several were offered.

While Dr Barr visited Sri Lanka, in late January 2020 Ian Majcher and Rev Stanley Okeke provided full pulpit and pastoral cover.

Rev Stanley Okeke completed his final review in January 2020 and is actively seeking his own charge. Two nomination committees have visited Cramond in assessment of Stanley, and he had been invited to preach as sole nominee at Ayr, St Andrew's.

Rev Okeke preached as sole nominee and was subsequently inducted to St Andrew's Church, Ayr on 12th May 2020. This was an on-line service due to the pandemic restrictions. The Okeke family moved to Ayr the following month and, whilst not able to meet live with their new congregation, the children continued to attend our on-line Sunday Club. Following Cramond's lead, Stanley's new charge was one of the first churches to re-open as restrictions lifted.

In February 2019 the Kirk Session agreed Iain Majcher would start as Probationer Assistant Minister at Cramond Kirk in June. Having completed his academic training this forms his final placement of 15 months. A group consisting of three Elders and a member of the congregation has formed to support Iain, his wife Celeste, their 5 young children and dog. The Kirk Session in particular are aware it is a challenging time for the whole family as Iain takes on his Ministerial role and responsibilities.

Iain Majcher successfully completed his interim review in January and continues his placement in Cramond until the end of August 2020.

The vacancy procedure was frustrated by the pandemic, but Iain preached as sole nominee on 23rd August 2020 and has been called to be the Minister at Bothwell Parish Church.

After additional time with us, Assistant Minister, Rev Tom Cuthell retired at the end of 2019. A reception in his honour is planned for March 2020.

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 convenorship of a Session Committee.

Two of the Elders who were ordained in 2016 are now Conveners of Kirk Session Committees (Parish and Special Services).

One of our Elders was appointed as the summer intern in 2018 with a grant of £1,000 from the Presbytery's mission fund. This led to the creation of the role of Pastoral Care Assistant and her appointment to the post.

The role of our Pastoral Care Assistant CK, Diane Williams, has blossomed both as a befriending service and practical source of information (1:3) A wealth of useful information on everything from changing a light bulb to help with care assistance started as a paper file. Now leaflets are freely available and the Information Hub has developed an online resource with links to many other resources available for the elderly and housebound. It is reaching beyond expectations. Paper copies are also available and distributed through the likes of local GPs.

At Cramond we appoint a new Session Clerk every five years and as Sandra Watson's term in office was drawing to a close in May 2019 Session voted Edith Butler as her successor in September 2018. This allowed her to shadow the position for six months.

Edith Butler was sworn in as Session Clerk at Cramond Kirk on Monday 6th May 2019.

In preparation for works to improve our Halls two of our Elders attended a seminar held by the General Trustees entitled "Well Equipped Spaces in the Right Places".

Summer 2019 saw Session propose 14 members of the congregation for the Eldership. Nine attended information sessions and 5 were ordained on 19th January 2020. Each new elder is being assigned a mentor elder and has been appointed to a session committee. They will be introduced to pastoral duties as need arises.

The pandemic of 2020 stalled the introduction of new Elders to their Districts. They have however been involved in other initiatives on committees and were among the first to be on duty when our church re-opened in July 2020.

Most of our new Elders were appointed Districts and have been able to contact their members during latter half of 2020. The new Elders are fulfilling active roles; within the on-line services team, as Safeguarding officer, and two having led the Christmas events.

During the pandemic our Ministry Team, Office bearers and Elders have attended on-line meetings. Four attended a finance based webinar held by the General Trustees in May. Our Youth Convener and a couple of Elders attended a worship webinar including details of worship ideas for children led by Moderator Martin Fair in June. In August, three attended a webinar on Presbytery Planning, and our Sunday Club Leader attended one on re-opening of church buildings and youth activities.

At the May meeting of the Session Executive, the appointment was

approved of Rev Ian Gilmour as Associate Minister locum from 1st August 2020 on a part time basis. Ian is also Interim Moderator to the Scots Kirk, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

In August 2020 Dr Barr informed us of his intention to retire at the end of October. Dr Barr has been with us for over 27 years as a Minister of the highest regard. The Kirk Session is aware Dr Barr's leaving bestows increased pastoral care of the congregation, and other responsibilities during a period of vacancy.

Rev Ian Gilmour became our part-time, Locum Minister from 1st November 2020.

Presbytery appointed Rev Moira MacDonald, Minister at Corstorphine Old Parish Church, as our Interim Moderator from 1st November 2020.

Rev Tom Cuthell is supporting with monthly services during the vacancy.

In the Autumn of 2020, 10 Elders received support and training, through our Locum Minister and Convener of the Technology Committee, and together form a team producing the on-line Daily Devotion from Mondays to Saturdays.

Dr Barr had provided a weekly video for Children's Church during the pandemic. Upon his retiral Sunday Club leaders took over this role and produce videos from their own homes.

Other Elders and Sunday Club members are being supported to record readings and prayers for the on-line services.

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.

One of our Elders became a Rainbow Leader and some of our Sunday Club helpers are moving to prepare lessons in support of the regular leaders.

Our church secretary became an Rainbow leader during the pandemic, ably assisting with virtual meetings until they can return to the Halls.

Parents of Sunday Club children have helped their children participate in the on-line classes held during the pandemic and we hope to involve them more as the restrictions ease.

- 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.

This was deferred to avoid possible conflict with the stewardship campaign which began in 2018.

The hall roof has been assessed and should be sound enough, with routine maintenance, until around 2033.

Funds had been set aside for the hall roof but, as this is no longer imminent, Session agreed improvements should be made to the Kirk Halls. Identified areas are the windows, kitchen, tea bar, female toilets and disabled toilets. We are planning to renew and upgrade these areas, as well as incorporate dementia friendly aspects where applicable. In addition, insulation is to be maximised and eco-friendly alternatives are being considered including solar panels and EV charging points. Subject to permission we are aiming for the work to be carried out in the summer of 2020.

The sound system and digital access around our Halls is also to be improved.

During the lockdown of 2020 the church buildings were regularly inspected and maintained to ensure safety and security.

A considerable investment is being spent to improve energy efficiency and increase the function of the Kirk Halls for different user groups.

Work started on the hall improvements as soon as access was permitted during the pandemic. Thirty-three windows were replaced with double glazed units, easily adjustable for ventilation. An addition entrance doorway to the Halls was created. The roof space and wall cavity insulation was maximised.

The kitchen has been stripped out and redesigned, and will be completed in September 2020.

The tea bar has been stripped out, the entrance moved to allow better access, and it will be completed in September 2020.

The ladies and accessible toilets have been renovated and upgraded.

A toilet and nappy changing area is being installed in the upper hall. This will enable the Playgroup to comply with new regulations and help increase the number of user groups for this room.

A sink is to be installed in the stage room to increase the possible number of user groups for this room.

In the wake of the pandemic hands free taps and soap dispensers were installed in the gents toilets as an addition to the hall improvements.

A safety system has been installed on the kirk hall roof to allow access for routine inspections and maintenance.

The manse is under review while we are in vacancy. It is possible major refurbishment will be carried out before a new Minister is appointed.

Using the main sanctuary for the Christmas Tree Festival of 2020 proved very successful and helped demonstrate how it might be used in other ways. The Kirk Session Strategy Group is considering this issue.

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.

The site for a Garden of Remembrance has moved to beside the manse as it was discovered this area of ground was not included as part of the Scheduled Monument. The aim is for the provision of memorial stones which will allow incorporation of names well into the future. It will also provision for the scattering of ashes. The necessary permissions have been granted and works are to be scheduled with the city archaeologist in 2020.

The Memorial Garden has progressed over the Summer of 2020. The five stones will have space for several hundred names, hence provision for a long future. The initial investment will be outweighed by the income from sale of engravings.

The church has also made application to the City of Edinburgh Council to take on the management and burial rights of the graveyard. This move has been made after many years of frustration over the upkeep and management of

the grounds. This year (2019) we had lifted a number of headstones that were to have been replaced by the Council some 4 years ago.

Unfortunately response from the Council has been lacking and no progress has been made on the graveyard since the application in April 2019.

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.

This has not been progressed.

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.

The stewardship campaign "Cramond Cares" was launched in September 2018. District Elders delivered invitations to church members, who were invited to attend one of a series of three receptions after Sunday services to enjoy coffee and home baking, courtesy of our Catering Committee, while hearing a short presentation about the campaign.

Several proposals were put forward for discussion: caring for the elderly and isolated in the community, engagement with families with children, music in worship, use of social media to communicate the wider community and ensuring our Kirk Halls are safe and fit for purpose (in particular the kitchen and toilets.) Members were asked to indicate how they felt they could help, by sharing their time, talents and money, and their responses were collected

and studied.

The Stewardship Campaign generated an increase in volunteers from the congregation and although it is difficult to be comprehensive the numbers were as follows:- Deliver The Grapevine parish magazine – 8; Help with Christmas Fair – 15; Help with Fair Trade stall – 5; Help with Sunday transport – 7; Help with Visiting Team – 13.

A Legacy Group was formed in winter 2018/2019 to explore ways of encouraging more giving to the Kirk by way of legacy. Professional advice is being sought from the Church of Scotland's National Stewardship Co-ordinator, with a view to preparing an information leaflet around Remembrance time in 2019.

The outcome of the Stewardship Campaign was primarily concerned with time and talents but did result in a modest increase in giving.

The Legacy Group has produced a leaflet which was introduced to Session at our September meeting. District Elders were encouraged to distribute the leaflet to each of their households. By further way of introduction it formed part of the theme of the Remembrance Day service in November.

Two teams were set up during lockdown to enable the re-opening of the Kirk and Halls as soon as possible.

The Kirk Session later approved the formation of the Kirk Session Strategy Group, which incorporated the teams managing the re-opening of church buildings. The group's objectives are:-1) To create and implement an operational plan to bring Cramond Kirk and Halls out of lockdown measures imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 2) To consider what has been learned during the lockdown and propose a longer term strategy to ensure the sustainability of the congregation's life, worship and buildings.

One project emerging from the KS Strategy Group is "Imagine Cramond". We are asking the whole community to present their vision for where we live. The idea has already been well received by our local schools and will be fully launched in February 2021.

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.

However, in 2020 our Gift Aid income has been found falling very gradually year on year because our relevant income is falling. The fall is mitigated to some extent by new Gift Aid donors and existing donors converting to 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.

During lockdown Dr Barr wrote to members of the congregation who give by Free Will Offering. This encouraged increased giving and some made the favourable move to regular giving by direct banking.

A “Donate” button was added to the church website in August 2020 and has been publicised both locally and wider afield. Through this we can create specific links for other donations, for example the Christmas hampers.

We have been considering methods of encouraging electronic giving for some time and the Covid lockdown has increased the urgency of finding a solution. We have joined a number of other local churches to review the options and will be running a live experiment with the three front runners: Goodbox, Sumup and Data Developments. We hope to have an agreed solution soon and, by buying collectively, obtain a discount from the winning supplier.

A trial, donations terminal was installed in the church in December 2020. This allows offerings to be given in a contactless fashion, both electronically or by deposits of FWO envelopes, cheques or cash. The terminal was re-sited to the Kirk Halls while the sanctuary was closed in January 2021 and achieved some income from visitors to the Halls during the vaccination programme. (see 1:12)

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.

After 25 years and 100 editions, our parish magazine "Grapevine" took on a new look in 2018 and was published in full colour.

The new colour Grapevine evolved from 4 pages to 8 and has been well received after feedback and improvements. This allows us to reach out to virtually every home in Cramond (with many beyond). Our team of volunteer distributors from the congregation are also ambassadors for Cramond Kirk as they go about their deliveries.

Our Social Media feeds allow us to provide continuous information and news about Cramond Kirk (Grapevine is quarterly).

Web traffic allows us to reach out to a much larger geographical area (in fact world-wide). It is also used to communicate new initiatives, e.g. the How to Give section on the website and information on leaving a legacy to Cramond Kirk.

Proposals are in hand to modernise our Sound System in the Main Hall to meet the needs of our many users (digital inputs for music from mobile phones such as Bluetooth recognising the move away from CDs etc. to mobile devices).

When lockdown hit in March 2020 the church rapidly found ways of communicating with members of the parish. A meeting of 17th March initiated a network of communication, through church and non-church groups to disseminate information and offers of help. This evolved into a cascade system that has been used on many occasions since.

Session was kept informed through e-mails, including weekly updates from the Session Clerk.

Telephone calls were increased, especially to those not on e-mail to help support the congregation in these worrying times.

Elders contacted their Districts and many established e-mail contact

in addition to regular phone calls.

In later weeks the church announcements were re-instated and are e-mailed through the District Elders to the congregation weekly.

The Visiting Team and other groups are keeping their members updated via e-mail and phone calls.

The church secretary set up an e-mailing list for any of the congregation who wish inclusion and 271 are on the list.

A licence was purchased to allow easy use of Zoom for church meetings.

The Kirk Session communicated by e-mail and approved the formation of an Executive Committee, the existence of which is reviewed in consultation with the Scottish Government and church of Scotland guidelines.

Session Committees were encouraged to meet on Zoom and support offered to enable this. The finance committee held extra meetings via zoom to address urgent matters imposed by the pandemic.

On-line services were started as mentioned in section 1.1. In the main, these were filmed by the Ministry team and edited with the help of the Technology and Communications Committee Convener. We are looking to purchase digital filming equipment to improve and expand our capabilities for on-line services and communications.

Our parish magazine moved to digital format and was distributed by email from the kirk office and other local organisations. Printed copies are hand delivered or posted to church members not on e-mail. The editor, Carol Anderson, produced fortnightly editions from April to August.

Hard copies of Grapevine are much preferred by many, so we returned to delivering throughout the parish in August 2020 and circulate the digital copy alongside this.

The Church of Scotland COVID fund awarded us £500 which went towards the Zoom licence and the extra editions of Grapevine magazine.

Links to information from the Church of Scotland and NHS Scotland, on prevention and healthcare related to the spread of coronavirus, were included on the church website.

Increased use is being made of social media channels. In support of this our Probationary Minister, Iain Majcher, in consultation with the law department, led us in drawing up a Social Media Policy which is to be reviewed annually by Session.

An order of service for Sunday Services is available on the website.

There has been a steady increase in hits on our website, with an overall increase of 70% on last year to a level of 85,000 hits per month in 2020. Pause for Thought attracted over 1000 viewers on 19th March and Daily Devotions on Good Friday reached 936. Facebook viewings increased along similar lines. Both peaked in April and May 2020 during the height of lockdown but, have maintained significantly good levels and emphasise the need to retain an on-line presence.

We have purchased equipment to film and live stream our services (see 1:1).

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.

In April 2018, Dr Barr led a group on a Centenary Tour of World War 1 battlefields and memorial sites in France and Belgium.

We marked the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War, with the main Act of Remembrance taking place at 11am. At 6am, the time at which the Armistice was signed on 11 November 1918, four pipers, including one of our Elders and a member of our Sunday Club, joined in a worldwide tribute to the fallen by playing "When the Battle's O'er" near a war memorial. The Kirk's memorial stained glass window was lit from within to shed light on the pipers outside and our Associate Minister, Rev Tom Cuthell, led those present in prayers. In the evening, also as part of a major initiative, our church bell was rung in memory of those who had lost their lives.

On 11 November 2018 Dr Barr deputised for the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland as guest preacher in St Andrew's Church in Brussels. The church was erected to the glory and honour of God and to the memory of Scots Presbyterians who lost their lives in the Great War and

rest in Belgium.

On Good Friday 2019 we welcomed the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Rev Susan Brown as our guest preacher for the evening service.

Dr Barr took on key roles at the 2019 General Assembly both Moderating on occasion and chairing the Selection Committee for the, first ever, twelve Assembly Trustees.

We are a congregation keen to live well beside our neighbours of all faiths and none. Our Halls are in constant use by local community groups and those from further afield. We have had mixed success inviting speakers from the Jewish and Islamic faiths and our Halls are frequently used for celebration of Hindu festivals.

We are listed with the City of Edinburgh Council as a place of refuge in disaster.

The Kirk Halls are under consideration by the City Council for use as a polling station, in place of Cramond Primary School, which would protect the school and families from the effects of extra days of closure.

As fundraising events could not be held during the pandemic we have promoted ways to donate to charities and organisations that have previously received our support. These include Fresh Start, Turi Children's Project, Christian Aid, the One World Shop and Fair Trade.

Dr Barr has continued to support the work of the Scottish Government's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSG)

Dr Barr featured on BBC television news in July 2020 on the re-opening of the church.

Dr Barr featured on BBC radio Scotland in August 2020 regarding ways the church is responding to the pandemic and how it needs to adapt for the future. Amongst other items raised were, awareness of the need for church buildings to be fit for purpose and well maintained, the benefits of on-line communications and a need to find new ways for congregations to come together.

Cramond Medical Practice began administering vaccinations against the coronavirus, from the Kirk Halls, in January 2021. We readily supported this and donated the use of the Halls.

Our income streams have largely been cut off as a direct result of the pandemic and are under threat in the medium term because of the closure of the Church and Halls. We depend on the income from the rental of Cramond House to Little Monkeys Nursey which has thankfully been able to open but on limited

terms. We are committed to funding £50,000 for the memorial garden and an M&M payment of £150,000. In addition we may have extensive maintenance and improvement costs for the Manse. These commitments are in addition to £160,000 spent during the last year on essential improvements to the Halls and memorial garden which when taken together, restrict our ability to undertake further significant projects at this time.