

CRAMOND KIRK



NOVEMBER PRAYER DIARY

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

(Mark 12 : 30 - 31)

* * * * *

Prayer topics are arranged over seven days which you may find helpful.

Sunday

Pray for Tom & Colin & for their pastoral role in the life of the congregation & also for their work in the community. Pray for Russell & Margaret as they continue with their many public engagements. Pray for Louise as she preaches as sole nominee in Lanark St Nicholas Church of Scotland on 27 November.

Monday

Prayers for America (from C of S website)

Church leaders in the USA have called on Scots to pray for the country amid growing tensions over the presidential election between Donald Trump & Hillary Clinton. The Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), the Church of Scotland's American partner organisation, has issued a call to the faithful to pray for peace & a "non-violent transition from one president to the next". The Right Rev Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, who is currently in the USA on official business, said he was "quite taken aback" by the mood in the country & has backed the call.

Tuesday

Pray for the people of central Italy who continue to experience earth tremors & the collapse of buildings. Pray for the provision of shelter & the meeting of daily needs. Pray for the young people currently being relocated from 'The Jungle' camp in Calais. Pray that they will receive proper protection from local government agencies.

Wednesday

(from the C of S website)

The Church of Scotland & Islamic Finance Council UK are convening the unique gathering of faith leaders, parliamentarians & finance practitioners to agree a shared values framework upon which a financial solution, open to all in society, will be developed. The joint venture, the culmination of many years of dialogue, was launched earlier this year in response to the systemic failure & non-sustainability of the current financial model that has struggled to recover from the economic, operational & reputational damage caused by the global crisis in 2008/09. By developing a pioneering new model of interfaith engagement, the initiative aims to move from dialogue to action by creating a fairer, more socially responsible financial system. Pray for the success of this initiative.

Thursday

Pray for the uniformed organisations using the Kirk Hall. Pray for all leaders, helpers & young people seeking to develop life skills & encourage friendships among the community.

Friday

Pray for the staff working from 121 George Street that they might be encouraged in their work for the Kirk. Pray also for new volunteers to help run Councils & Committees (around 90 people required).

Saturday

During this month of Remembrance pray for members of the armed forces who are deployed on behalf of the country, some in hostile environments & others in humanitarian & peacekeeping roles. Pray also for chaplains who minister to them. Pray for the work of Erskine in their care for injured & unwell veterans.

REFLECTION

From a sermon by Professor Richard Bauckham, recently retired from St Andrew's University Divinity Department

I'm reflecting this morning mainly on the first, the command to love God with all we are & have. But notice how different this is from the command to love our neighbours. We are to love our neighbours like ourselves or, as Jesus says elsewhere, do to them as we would wish them to do to us. But it's only God who is to be loved with our whole being. I wonder how many ordinary secular people nowadays would imagine religion as like that. Not as something we religious people pay some attention to alongside other concerns in our lives but as the devoting of everything we are & have & do to God. But if God is God, that must be the only appropriate way of relating to God. To love God with our whole being means on, the one hand, that some things are excluded from our lives - anything inconsistent or competing with love of God. But, on the other hand, it means that all the good & proper concerns of human life are included within the love of God. Not just, for example, preaching this sermon is the kind of thing I should do for the love of God but also getting a good sleep last night, eating my breakfast, enjoying the walk to church - the love of God includes all these things, when we are truly devoting all we are & have & do to God. On some other occasion, losing sleep or missing breakfast might be what the love of God requires of me. To live for God means I should be alert to those possibilities.

But it's only because loving God is a big enough notion to include all the proper concerns & activities of our human life that we can love God with all our heart & mind & soul & strength. In a sense we should do all those things for God's sake. That doesn't take any of the value of those things out of them. Quite the opposite: everything becomes entirely what it should be when it is devoted to God.

(<http://richardbauckham.co.uk/uploads/Sermons/Who%20God%20is.pdf>)

If you have a prayer request or a favourite prayer which you would care to share in a future Prayer Diary, please e-mail cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk