

# CRAMOND KIRK



## APRIL PRAYER DIARY

Jesus said to his disciples,

'This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations.'

*Luke 24 : 46 - 47*

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**Topics are arranged over 7 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. (You can get up-to-date details from the Moderator's Diary on the Cramond Kirk website).

### **Monday**

Pray for all those affected by the recent terrorist atrocity in London. Pray for those recovering in hospital & at home; for the family of the police officer who was killed & for the family of the perpetrator struggling with pain & guilt.

### **Tuesday**

Pray for those of our congregation grieving for the loss of family members. Pray that they might find strength from the Lord despite their pain & sorrow. Pray also for those dealing with long term illness & for those recovering from stays in hospital. Pray for Andrew Davies, son of Stephen & Lisa Davies, baptised on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Wednesday**      *(from the Christian Aid website)*

Pray for communities in Nepal remembering the second anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck on 24 April 2015. Pray for the many who were bereaved & who are still rebuilding their lives.

## **Thursday**

Pray this month for the work of the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland. The aim of the World Mission Council is to enable the Church, as part of the holy catholic or universal Church, to participate effectively in the Mission of God in the world, following the example & priorities of Jesus Christ & seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

## **Friday**

*(from the Christian Aid website)*

There is continued persecution of the Christian community in Egypt. Rev Colin Johnston, associate minister in Tiberias, comments: "In the middle of February, ..., the local affiliate of ISIS brought out a video threatening to carry out attacks on Christians & cleanse Egypt of them. Since the release of the video, several Christians have been killed. In one case, a father was shot dead while his 35 year old son was taken away & burned alive. There was apparently no attempt to negotiate or convert them to Islam. Horrific acts such as this have hit the Christian community hard & many of the Christians living in the El Arish area (the biggest town in the Northern Sinai) have now fled to the relative safety of Ismailia on the Suez Canal. "I am not going to wait for death", a restaurant owner said. "These people are ruthless" & he shut up his business & joined the exodus away from the Sinai. In all, well over 100 families have fled." Pray for Christian Churches in Egypt as they deal with this persecution.

## **Saturday**

*(from the Christian Aid website)*

As part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) National Appeal, Christian Aid, our partner organisation, have launched an East Africa Crisis Appeal to respond to what has been described as the 'worst humanitarian crisis since 1945'. Christian Aid said: "Famine has been declared in parts of South Sudan, where 100,000 people face starvation & nearly 5 million people urgently need food. This crisis follows more than three years of devastating conflict, which has left millions of people without a safe place to call home. The situation is also grave in Somalia, Kenya & Ethiopia where 14 million people are going hungry every day, caught up in the region's worst drought in 50 years. In Somalia alone, over 360,000 children under five are extremely malnourished." Pray for resources to respond to such suffering.

## **REFLECTION**

### **Reflection on the Gospel of John, chapter 20**

The Easter season of alleluias can sometimes seem to leave little room for our doubts, our fears and our pain. We tend to forget that for the first disciples, there was fear, doubt, pain, and confusion before there was understanding and joy at what had taken place on *that day*. One week after Jesus appeared to his disciples, they were gathered once again behind locked doors, suggesting that Thomas was not the only one still needing reassurance that Jesus had in fact conquered death....

The natural thing to do when we are feeling anxious or threatened is to hunker down and lock the doors, to become focused on our own security rather than the risky mission to which we are called. The promise of this text is that Jesus cannot be stopped by our locked doors. Jesus comes to us as he came to the first disciples, right in the midst of our fear, pain, doubt, and confusion. He comes speaking peace, breathing into our anxious lives the breath of the Holy Spirit.

What is more, he keeps showing up. As he came back a week later for Thomas, Jesus keeps coming back week after week among his gathered disciples -- in the word, the water, the bread, and the wine -- not wanting any to miss out on the life and peace he gives. And he keeps sending us out of our safe, locked rooms, into a world that, like us, so desperately needs his gifts of life and peace.

*Professor Elisabeth Johnson: Lutheran Institute of Theology, Cameroon*

*[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=1991](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1991)*

*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](mailto:cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk).*