

# CRAMOND KIRK



## JULY/AUGUST PRAYER DIARY

Jesus said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

*(John 2 : 8 - 11)*

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**In this issue, items are arranged by topic.**

### **Grenfell Tower**

Pray for the many people affected by the Grenfell Tower tragedy in London. Pray for the families & friends of those who died & for the emergency service workers as they work to deal with the aftermath of the fire. Pray also for the residents of the many other tower blocks throughout the country having to be rehoused in temporary accommodation while repairs are being carried out.

### **Cramond Kirk**

Pray for Russell, Margaret & Colin & for their pastoral role over the summer months. Pray that they will enjoy some time off for relaxation. Pray also for the Sunday Club teachers & children, choir members & leaders of the uniformed organisations as they take time out over the summer break as well as participating in summer camps/holidays.

### **New Members**

Pray for Isabella Jarvie & Jasmine Sinclair baptised on 25<sup>th</sup> June. Pray for our new members, David & Tricia Forrester and Christine Paterson who joined the congregation on 25<sup>th</sup> June. Pray also for those recently bereaved of our congregation that they might know the peace of God's presence in their lives.

## **Political Instability**

Pray for strong political leadership in the country at this time of political instability. Pray for those in government dealing with Brexit negotiations that the rights of EU citizens will be protected both in this country & abroad.

## **South Africa** *(from the Christian Aid Website)*

Tuesday, 18 July is Nelson Mandela Day. Give thanks for Mandela's inspirational legacy. Pray for South Africa today & the challenges of inequality that it still faces. Pray for the Christian Aid South Africa country manager, Julie Meighan & for Gerhard Buttner who is covering her maternity leave. Pray for effective joint work with ACT Alliance partners in South Africa that together we can address challenges of evictions, inadequate shelter & housing, lack of clean water, sanitation or electricity & land grabbing.

## **Homelessness**

Russell raised the scandal of homelessness with Scottish politicians while he was Moderator. Speaking at the General Assembly, Dr Barr "questioned the impact being homeless was having on children's education, health & sense of well-being. The galling thing is that it need not be like this. All the research has been done, the causes identified as well as the policies & processes needing to be put in place to resolve it. The one thing missing is the political will." Pray for a change in the thinking of government that they might address and respond to such need.

## **REFLECTION**

### **The Truth about Love**

*(The Revd Lucy Winkett, St James's Piccadilly, London)*

John's gospel is full of signs & their overarching purpose is to point all of us who listen to the presence of God in this life. To show the ways in which in this life, God is made flesh; signs to show us that the source of Jesus's life is the divine life & so to show us that **this life is God's life** given to us to live. We are living a life that has holy origins & holy purpose; which can be summed up in God's irresistible invitation to love one another as we love ourselves. So when we hear the story of the water becoming wine at the wedding, we get into wondering about miracles & magic & we get anxious about trying to explain it. But the meaning is not dependent on such details. Our anxiety comes often from an assumption that we think God is like us only bigger, because that's all we can imagine. But John's gospel – these signs he keeps writing about – are to show us that God is not like us only bigger; if God was that, then we should be very, very afraid if God is powerful enough to, for example, change water into wine. Because we know how easily that power could be abused. When we hear the glory of the astonishing & profligate gallons & gallons of wine, we hear the story & smell the wine as we hear all the stories about Jesus, through the story of the cross; the wine is the wine of suffering ... God's power & glory finds its most powerful meaning in the cross. It is power but not as we might use it. It is love but not as we keep trying to define it. It is glory but not a glorifying of the only power we know which is ours. When we say that God is love, that God is powerful or glorious, we are saying that God is all these things in the shattering figure of God on the cross. The temptation of believing in a God of supreme power & authority – like us only bigger – is that we co-opt God's power to bolster our own projects, attitudes, opinions & plans. The cross shatters that co-option & will not allow us to believe in a God with a magic wand.

Because if we do try to discern the truth of God's power – power even to change water into wine, then we will be led to the cross. To be in solidarity with all those who are splintered by life, who are suffering because of another's cruelty; to be in solidarity with those parts of ourselves that are devastated, or frightened, lonely or betrayed. Human relationships are a daily conundrum, whether we're single, married, partnered, willingly alone, unwillingly single, isolated or happy or trapped. Our attempts to be close to another person often takes us to the edge of ourselves; more than we can take. Human relationships bring out the very best & the very worst of our own behaviour & reveal our conundrums about power & sexual desire, our need to be loved & accepted, our longing to give ourselves away. And the glory of the good news of the gospel for us today is that it is right in that real-life complex maelstrom of emotion & hope & suffering ... that God comes to pour wine from water jars for you ... to tell you the truth about love.

*([http://www.sjp.org.uk/uploads/1/6/5/7/16572376/winkett\\_lucy\\_epiphany\\_4\\_2017\\_t\\_ruth\\_about\\_love.pdf](http://www.sjp.org.uk/uploads/1/6/5/7/16572376/winkett_lucy_epiphany_4_2017_t_ruth_about_love.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](mailto:cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk).*