

# CRAMOND KIRK



## SEPTEMBER PRAYER DIARY

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

*(Matthew 16 : 13 - 16)*

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

### **Sunday**

Pray for Russell & Colin & their ministry in teaching & in pastoral activities. Pray for a sense of God’s presence & love as they minister.

### **Monday**

Pray for the states of Texas & Louisiana in the USA as they deal with the aftermath of torrential rain following tropical storm, Harvey. Pray for those in leadership that they will be sensitive to the needs of the community & provide necessary assistance to alleviate hardship. Pray also for the ministry of local churches in providing help.

### **Tuesday**

Pray for Sophie, daughter of Ian & Jennifer Murray & for Thomas, son of Timothy & Fiona Bloomer, both baptised on 6 August. Pray for Magnus, son of Graeme & Kärt MacLeod & for Marnie, daughter of Steven & Lauren McLeod, both baptised on 27 August. Pray for new members joining by profession of faith: Matthew Madeley, Michael McLeod, Samuel Priyadharshan, Rajan Shah & James, David & Jennifer Riches all of whom joined on 27 August.

## **Wednesday**

Pray for the ministry of the Sunday Club as they begin their new session. Pray for Louise Madeley in the church office, for David Haggerty, the church beadle, for Sandra Watson, the Session Clerk & for Neil Macleod, the church treasurer in their work on behalf of the congregation.

## **Thursday**                    *(from the Church of Scotland website)*

The Moderator of the General Assembly is backing a new campaign aimed at lifting 30,000 children out of poverty. Right Rev Dr Derek Browning said he fully supported the Give Me Five initiative, which is seeking a £5 a week increase in child benefit per person. For families struggling to make ends meet, the extra money could mean a week of proper breakfasts, a warm school coat or the ability to share in out-of-school activities. Pray for this initiative.

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

Give thanks & pray for Christian Aid partner Youth Harvest Foundation Ghana. Pray for their work with female farmers & rice processors in northern Ghana, improving the quality & yield of rice they produce. Pray for the training they're giving farmers, from improved techniques for growing & processing crops to vital business skills so women can negotiate better prices for their harvests. Everyone involved with the project so far now has enough money to pay to send all their children to school – praise God!

## **Saturday**

Pray for the ministry of Richmond's Hope, the charity which supports bereaved children. The Sunday Club are contributing to the creation of A Mile of Memories (a fund raising initiative) along Portobello Promenade on Saturday, 23 September.

## **REFLECTION**

### **Reflection on Matthew 16 : Mitzi Smith**

How we identify Jesus will impact the way we interact with one another & with the earth. Jesus asks the disciples who others think he, the Son of Man, is. We might view this question as an invitation to engage in critical dialogue with other perspectives. What do others say? The disciples answer that some people say that he is John the Baptist; others declare that he is Elijah & still others claim that Jesus is Jeremiah or some other prophet. In other words, people don't agree... What kind of human being is Jesus in light of the many powerful deeds he has performed & the many people who follow him? The people believe that Jesus is an incarnation or perhaps a spectre or ghost of powerful male prophets who no longer walk the earth. It is Elijah & Moses that appear with Jesus on the mountain of transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13). Peter, James & John were there on the mountain of transfiguration with Jesus, so they knew Jesus was not Elijah (or Moses). Those who witnessed John the Baptist baptise Jesus knew that Jesus was not John the Baptist (3:13-17). The disciples are silent. With the exception of Simon Peter, they don't seem to have an opinion of their own. Peter emerges as spokesperson for the Twelve: "You are the Messiah, the son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Jesus blesses Simon Bar Jonah, presumably for being the courageous student with the correct answer. Jesus states that Peter's answer did not come from human beings; it is not based on rumour or the hearsay of others. How we identify Jesus should be based on personal encounters with God, even though informed by our (re)readings of the sacred text & in dialogue with others.

How we identify Jesus should be grounded in a lifelong conversation with God whereby we adjust what we think we know as necessary (16:17). Our denomination, our church, our pastors, our mothers or fathers, our siblings, our Sunday or Sabbath school teachers & others will have their opinions, but in the end we have to decide for ourselves in conversation with God how we will identify Jesus.

*(Mitzi Smith, Associate Professor of New Testament & Early Christianity, Ashland Theological Seminary, Detroit, Michigan.*

*[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=3361](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3361))*

*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)*