

CRAMOND KIRK



MAY PRAYER DIARY

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

(John 10 : 10)

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Topics are arranged over 7 days which you may find helpful.

Sunday

Pray for Russell & Tom & their ministry in teaching & pastoral activities. Pray that the teaching & support that they provide will give strength & encouragement to them & the congregation. Pray also for Russell's continuing role in the Scottish Government's homelessness project.

Monday *(from the Church of Scotland website)*

The director of an organisation overseeing reconstruction work in Nepal following a deadly earthquake has urged Scots not to be "cynical" about foreign aid. Joel Hafvenstein said it would have been "impossible" for the United Mission to Nepal, (UMN) & its local partners to help thousands of people rebuild their shattered communities if it wasn't for £310,000 donated by generous Church of Scotland members... The World Mission Council's Let Us Build A House campaign is the biggest fundraiser it has orchestrated in its 200-year history & it continues to generate much needed funding. The money has enabled UMN & its partners to build 72 earthquake resistant schools, bio-gas plants, community water taps, toilet blocks, repair vital water irrigation systems & mini-hydro plants, reinstate 33 miles of roads & paths & kit out schools with computer suites... Mr Hafvenstein, who is the Church of Scotland's Mission Partner, said: "The work we do would be impossible without the financial & prayer support provided by the Church of Scotland." Pray for the people of Nepal as they continue to rebuild their communities.

Tuesday

Pray for the General Assembly 2018 meeting from 19 to 25 May. Pray for Rev Susan Brown as she becomes Moderator & presides over the discussions. Pray for a spirit of unity & charity to be evident. Pray also for the success of the Heart & Soul event to take place in Princes Street Gardens on 19 May.

Wednesday

Christian Aid Week takes place from 13 to 20 May. Pray for the success of all the events that have been organised & also for the door to door collectors. Pray that the monies raised will help to alleviate some of the suffering & poverty that many of the world's poor experience every day.

Thursday

Pray for John & James Fleming, baptised on 1 April & for Alexander Wright baptised on 8 April. Pray also for members of the church family who are unwell & for those who support them in their care & recovery.

Friday *(from the CrossReach prayer diary)*

CrossReach Counselling Lothians provides a generic counselling service to people of all ages across Edinburgh & East Lothian. Pray for the highly valued work that takes place in School Counselling Clinics & pray for the young people who attend these clinics.

Saturday

With the apparent progress that has been made in relationships between North & South Korea & the impending discussions with the US President, pray for continued, meaningful dialogue to take place that may bring a lessening of tensions in the Korean peninsula.

REFLECTION

by Suzi Farrant - Young People and Young Adult's Development Worker Church of Scotland

Deficit vs. Abundance

Starting from a place of deficit we find ourselves succumbing to a survival mentality, trying to do the best we can to ensure we have enough children left to ensure the future of our institution. We begin to focus on what children & young people can bring to the church in the future rather than what they can bring now. All our efforts go on ensuring they have the skills & knowledge to do the things that we will need them to do when they are adults. We easily forget to see the bigger picture, finding ourselves competing with other congregations in our communities for the few children we do have, thinking there will never be enough to go around. We start to chase after the magic resource that will change our fortunes, copying what we perceive to be success elsewhere, believing it to be the answer to our problems. I don't think this is a healthy place to be & it is certainly not helping to bring about the sort of change that I believe God is desiring in our churches. The God I believe in is a God of abundance not of deficit. A God with whom there is always more, a God of hope, a God who desires to see us grow & have life in all its fullness. When we recognise all that God has done & is doing for us we begin to join in, following the Spirit's leading, willingly sharing such abundance with others, regardless of age.

Starting from a place of abundance helps us to notice the stories of children who have found love within our church communities, the stories of young people being released from pain & given hope, the stories of adults whose faith has been inspired by the questions & thoughts of children. Hearing these stories leads us to yearn for more & to being more willing to change what we are doing so that we are in step with the Spirit, leading others to join the party too.

Source: Suzi Farrant, Suzi's blog, written March 2017

(http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/children_and_youth/year_of_young_people/yoyp_themes)

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.