

CRAMOND KIRK



JUNE PRAYER DIARY

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners.

(Isaiah 61 : 1)

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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. Continue to pray for the Year of Young People events & for the involvement of our young people in the life of the congregation.

Monday *(from the Church of Scotland website)*

A former child soldier who went on to become a leading peacemaker & evangelist has praised the Church of Scotland for supporting efforts to end conflict in South Sudan.

Rt Rev Peter Gai Lual, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan & Sudan said that training in conflict resolution, offered through the Church of Scotland, is helping churches put an end to violence in his country. Churches are working together on a three-part plan to end the violence:

- Advocacy & prayers for peace
- Offering a neutral forum where the rival parties can talk in a safe place
- Bringing people together for reconciliation

“We will never stop talking about peace & we will never stop talking about people forgiving each other,” he says. “Women in the Church have created a day of fasting & prayer every Monday. When people see the mothers are really serious about peace it changes their hearts.” Pray for the prospects for peace in South Sudan & for all those working towards reconciliation.

Tuesday

Cramond Kirk has accepted an invitation to become mission partners with Revd John McCulloch & his family. John is the new minister of St Andrew's Church, Jerusalem. They will forward to us prayer requests from time to time & this month they ask we pray for the churches in Jerusalem & Tiberias, that they would grow & flourish into missional communities that reach out with a message of hope & healing for all.

Wednesday

Pray for George Mackay & Poppy Morris baptised on 27 May & also for their families. Pray for the recently bereaved of our own community.

Thursday *(from Joel Hafvenstein in Nepal/ World Mission Update, Church of Scotland)*

A few weeks ago there was a major fire in one of the most remote & vulnerable villages where our partner in Nepal - United Mission to Nepal (UMN) works. Seventeen households including 90 people (almost half the village population) have been left homeless by the disaster...I'm glad to report that the homeless villagers have built temporary shelters that should be adequate for the monsoon & their emergency needs have been met...please do keep the villagers in your prayers...Many of them are questioning whether bad karma from some collective sin led to the fire. Pray for them to know hope & freedom from blame.

Friday

Pray for the families of those involved in the horrific accident on Maybury Road last month in which one man was killed when his vehicle went on fire. Pray for the recovery of the injured.

Saturday *(from the Christian Aid Prayer Diary)*

Around 2 million people in Nigeria have fled ongoing violence & terror. Pray for an end to the conflict in Nigeria. Pray for the protection of our partners, who are one of the few agencies providing humanitarian assistance to both displaced & host communities. Pray that this overlooked crisis is given the international attention & support that it needs.

REFLECTION

Justin Welby: Sermon on Isaiah 61,
celebrating 50 years of Tearfund

Aid agencies & NGOs are going through a torrid time. There are so many bits of news that speak about the difficulties & failures of transformation. We hear of the news of staff that fail, of governments that steal, of wars that destroy, of power seeking that disregards the poor. So it is no surprise that this passage from Isaiah 61 appears sometimes to be at best utopian & often mere building of castles in the air. "They may be fine castles," says the cynic, "they may depict a world we could dream of," but the pragmatist, the critic of aid spending, says, "No, concentrate on here, on us, on me, on our needs, on the struggles of my community at home, for we cannot change what happens elsewhere." So equally were some of the comments of those who heard the words of Isaiah 61 for the first time in the slave labour camps of Babylon, or the second time in their greatest proclamation in Jesus' mouth in Luke 4, for in the opening declaration of his ministry, he was clearly proclaiming the Year of Jubilee. You can hear his listeners thinking, & in fact Luke goes on to expand their thoughts, "Who's this anyway? What right? Do shut up! It's all very well but look at the realities."

For there is nothing new about the real day to day struggles of everyone's lives obscuring the long term or the real local needs overwhelming the cries of the distant poor. It is a conundrum that is as old as time. Yet its great fault is that it leaves God out of the equation. Tearfund works, has worked & will work on the basis of putting God back into the calculation, on the basis of what God calls us to do in Scripture, properly interpreted, for Tearfund calls us to the response that amplifies the distant voices & takes all human beings to a different level of relationship in which those distant voices are heard clearly in our ears... The French philosopher & Christian, Paul Ricoeur, wrote of two visions of the world. One is exchange & equivalence, the other is abundance & grace. The economy of exchange & equivalence tells us that there simply aren't enough resources for all of us to share; that we have to struggle for land, for power. There isn't enough talent, there aren't enough gifts for all to thrive; striving for justice & equality is naïve. That lie dominates our societies. In contrast, the economy of abundance & grace is the economy of God. It is the economy set up in Genesis with the wild excesses of creation - who needs all those stars? Yet the nature of God is shown in his infinite surplus of creation. It is an economy that seeks the common good, not individual advancement or utility.

(<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speaking-and-writing/sermons/archbishop-canterburys-sermon-tearfund-50th-anniversary>)

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.