

GRAPEVINE



EDINBURGH NORTHWEST KIRK MAGAZINE

www.edinburghnorthwestkirk.org.uk

MARCH 2025 Issue 133

Your New Pastoral Assistant



My name is Jessie Ini Fubara-Manuel. I am thrilled to be joining the Edinburgh Northwest Kirk: Cramond and Pennywell as Pastoral Assistant in

May 2025. I like to describe myself as a woman of faith, a friendly person. I smile a lot and generally have a joyful outlook to life. I like cake and tea with more than a wee blether. Which is why I am excited about this new role as it offers opportunity to meet new people, create new friendships, and to work with the ministerial/eldership team to provide pastoral care to this parish and community.

I have been involved with the Church of Scotland at both local and national levels since 2017 when I first arrived from Nigeria. I was Associate Minister with South Leith Parish Church and witnessed the process of the union

that is today North and South Leith Parish with which I am still enrolled as a member. I am also a member of the Equality and Diversity Working Group of the Church of Scotland, and was the Convener of the Disability Inclusion Working Group.

In 2022, I was ordained Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, the same year I completed a PhD from the University of Edinburgh. Prior to coming to you, I worked with L'Arche Edinburgh, a community of persons with and without learning disabilities as Assistants Coordinator. At the heart of all my endeavours, research, learnings, careers, and engagements, is a commitment to accompany everyone to know and feel the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. I am married to Reverend Dr Ben Fubara-Manuel and we have four grown children. I look forward to meeting you soon, to joining in worshipping God together, to friendly visitations and to sharing tea and cakes with loving conversations.

With love, Jessie

CRAMOND KIRK SERVICES

Morning Prayers – 8.45 am Morning Worship – 10.00 am Sunday Explorers for children aged 2-17 takes place during the 10.00 am service. There is a creche for younger children.

PENNYWELL KIRK SERVICES

Morning Worship – 11.00 am The service includes the Sunday Explorers for youngsters.

ONLINE CHURCH

The services from Cramond (10.00 am) and Pennywell (11.00 am) are livestreamed.

Links to both services are on the front page of the parish website www.edinburghnorthwestkirk.org.uk

MONTHLY JOINT SERVICES

From May there will be monthly joint services at 10.30 am, usually on the first Sunday of the month, alternating between Cramond and Pennywell.



Easter Services

Maundy Thursday 17th April 6.00 pm Service at Pennywell Kirk

Good Friday 18th April

7.30 pm Service at Cramond Kirk

Easter Sunday 20th April

8.30 am Open air service at Cramond foreshore

(followed by bacon rolls in Cramond Kirk Hall)

(No 8.45 am Morning Prayers at Cramond that day)

10.00 am Easter Celebration Service at Cramond Kirk

11.00 am Easter Celebration Service at Pennywell Kirk

ALL CHANGE FOR THE GRAPEVINE

We're looking for fresh faces to take on several important roles at our much-loved Grapevine magazine. Could you be part of this team?

- **Editor** (pull together and edit the articles contributed from kirk and community)
- **Commissioning Editor** (plan content and seek articles on all aspects of life within the ENK parish)
- **Distribution Co-ordinator** (ensure the Grapevine gets delivered to as many homes as possible in the area)
- Advertising Co-ordinator (liaise with potential and existing advertisers)

Experience is not necessary, as training and lots of support will be provided. You'll be keen to contribute time and effort to the community, but don't have to be an ENK member. If you're at all interested, please contact Lesley Cumming for a chat and more details.



Kirk Fair convenors present cheque for £3381.96 to Jen McQuistan (centre)

FRESH START

Our Christmas 2024 appeals were a great success. We were able to support over 200 families with Christmas presents for their children, meaning that 265 children had gifts to open on Christmas morning. We also gave out 200 festive food hampers to families struggling with food poverty and over 100 pamper packs which included toiletries, make up etc. Some of the latter came from the generous donations from the relevant stall holders at the Cramond Kirk Christmas Fair.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our annual "Cookers for Christmas" campaign which raised nearly £30,000. This will enable us to purchase not only cookers but other white goods for some of the most vulnerable people across Edinburgh throughout the year.

We also wish to express our gratitude for the share of the funds raised by the Cramond Kirk Fair. Such financial help and the continuing weekly support with donated goods are greatly appreciated.

The Fresh Start Team

Parish Register

BAPTISMS

1 December Max & Rory Friedhoff22 December Prince & Princess Otobo

26 January Thor Richardson

DEATHS

25 November Robert (Bob) Watt19 December Maureen Borthwick

26 December Hazel Elders
31 December Angela Smith
6 January Bruce Wallace
18 January Christina Paul
22 January Shona Conner

NEW MEMBERS

Alexander & Elizabeth Reid John MacLennan Elaine Collins

FAIR TRADE CITY

We are a Fair Trade church in a Fair Trade city! This August the International Fair Trade Towns Conference is coming to Edinburgh. Hosted by Edinburgh Fairtrade City Group and Scottish Fair Trade, the exciting theme for this year's conference is **Your Town**, **Our World** –



Fair Trade Communities & Local Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Campaigners, organisations, enterprises and communities from around the world will meet to plan how to strengthen the global Fair Trade movement. The conference will highlight Fair Trade Nation status as a grassroots campaign that can leverage a local and national commitment to the global goal of fairness, equity and sustainability. The organisers have planned a social programme so that international delegates can learn a little more about Edinburgh and Scottish culture.

FUN AT THE CEILIDH





In January a very successful ceilidh was held in Cramond Kirk Hall. Lots of people, including our minister and her family, danced the night away.



Not there yet



It's that time of year when looking out the window one can't really be sure what season we are in. We might see a snow flurry, bright sunshine, or rain lashing at the window. Snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses remind us we are indeed moving towards Spring. But despite what the calendar says, we are not quite there yet.

We are well into Lent and nearing Holy Week and Easter, but we

are not there yet. This might have also been the refrain the Israelites sang as they wandered through the wilderness for decades...we are not there yet, we are not there yet, we are not there yet. It can either be a chant of encouragement, or a cry of despair.

"There" is a finish line of sorts. Lent is a season during which we can reflect on all the finish lines we have set our eyes on and why. What will we do when we finally get "there"? The lesson of the journey in the wilderness and the temptation in the desert is that faith is rarely about the finish line or the end game. The Lenten journey offers an opportunity to reflect on whether we have our eyes set on the right goals and whether we have chosen to trust God in all things.

Has your Lent turned out different than you had imagined? The challenge is to be fully present to the Lent you are experiencing. And this, in turn, invites you to be present to the life you actually have. Our days are often complicated by feelings that may not seem very spiritual. We hold our annoyances, disappointments, and grievances too close. We yearn to do better. But we are not there yet.

As we travel through the final weeks of Lent and into Holy Week, we travel as individuals and we travel in community. God travels with us on the days that are good and the days that are complete rubbish. Our finish line is Easter. We are almost there. Of course, when we

get "there", there will be much to celebrate and much to grieve. And then we journey on in Christ's name working towards building a more just and more loving world.

God promises that together, one day, we will get there.
Rev Julia Cato



LIFETIME OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH – A PERSONAL JOURNEY

by a worshipper at Cramond

My journey started in a Christian family within the Church of England.

I took part in the usual childhood activities - Sunday School, Brownies/Guides, church youth club, daily school assemblies, confirmation into C of E membership, regular attendance on Sundays. I also helped with Parish breakfasts after Communion and sang in the choir.

STEPPING STONES over the years

Influenced by unplanned meeting with Individuals of Faith Sudden urge to do something unexpected and awareness of unexplained incidents

Searching for meanings in life - Books/Alpha Course/Discussion Groups and Bible study which helped to strengthen my faith.

But there was always something missing.

TIPPING POINT

Finding by accident the Right book at the Right time to help me on my way. I couldn't put it down as it made so much sense to me at that time. 'Conversations with God book one' by Neale Donald Walsch.* It made me aware of an Evolving World needing changes in attitudes and beliefs in a Changeless God.

Not a Judgemental God but one of Unconditional Love for us.

A Believable God to have Communion with at all times.

Turning to Him for Inspiration and finding answers not in Words but Unconscious moments of understanding in everyday life.

Prayer is having a Conversation with God.

I am getting there at last!

*Walsch, Neale Donald. Conversations with God Book 1: an uncommon dialogue

Hodder and Stoughton, 1997 ISBN 978-034069325



This takes place between 11th-17th May. ENK will hold a joint service on Sunday 11th May to be followed by a Christian Aid Fair. A Christian Aid Quiz will be held at Cramond Kirk Hall on Thursday 8th May. Details of these events will be publicised in the Weekly Announcements and online. Here is a prayer to use: Pray this Christian Aid Week that farmers facing hunger and hardship can access vital resources to protect their families, feed their communities and fight back against the effects of the climate crisis.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

This year's Church of Scotland General Assembly will take place from 17-22 May. Alan Fisher and Rev Julia Cato will serve as Commissioners at the Assembly.

Rev Rosemary Frew, minister of Bowden and Melrose Parish Church in the Borders, will be installed as Moderator on Saturday 17 May 2025 succeeding Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson. A love of the outdoors and the spiritual connection it can bring has been a recurrent theme for Rev Frew, who is a keen skier, walker and sometime Munro-bagger. She explained: "There is something about being in God's creation and the companionship of people you walk with, whether on pilgrimage routes or up hills. It's a wonderful way of sharing with people and there can be an honesty often with people you may never see again."

Melrose Parish Church hosted the public funeral of the late Doddie Weir, who died of motor neuron disease aged 52. That service was led by Rev Frew and Rev Victoria Linford of Stow Church.

A Plain Man's Solidarity Pilgrimage to Palestine 10-21 November 2024

Flying to Amman, Jordan, before crossing over to the West Bank via the King Hussein Bridge I joined 46 others from the UK, US and Canada plus a Caribbean pastor. We were the guests of Sabeel. 'Sabeel' meaning 'the Way', is the Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre in Jerusalem. I see Liberation Theology as having its roots in the words of Jesus: 'The spirit of the Lord has sent me to announce good news to the poor.' Luke 4:18.

And they were pleased to see us. Tourism in the West Bank and Israel was down by over 70%, and the very comfortable Christmas Hotel in East Jerusalem where we stayed closed as soon as we left.



Avi Dabush

On our first full day we travelled to Sderot, the Israeli town nearest to Gaza, and met with Avi Dabush, executive director of Rabbis for Human Rights (RHR). His kibbutz had been attacked by Hamas on October 7th 2023 and he and his family fled to their shelter until rescued eight hours later by Israeli soldiers. Some others in the kibbutz were not so lucky. Like the Church of Scotland, RHR is against the military occupation of the West Bank, 'because that is the root of so many violations of human rights.'

A visit to the Bedouin village of Um al Kheir in the South Hebron Hills gave us an inkling of what it is like to be surrounded by armed and hostile Israeli settlers intent on making life as insufferable and as miserable as possible. How they survive the horrendous oppression meted out to them seems to be nothing short of miraculous. (Watch the film 'No Other Land' and you'll see what I mean.)

On our final day we met Lulu Nasser, mother of Layan, a young Palestinian Christian and graduate of Birzeit University in the West Bank. Last April Lavan was taken at gunpoint from her parents' home when 15 soldiers burst in at 5.30am. Under the terms of administrative detention, Palestinians in the Occupied Territories can be arrested and held without any formal charges being made against them. Their imprisonment can be renewed indefinitely every six months. Last December Layan was released but thousands of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza remain in administrative detention.

We were well looked after and never in harm's way. If only the same could be said of all who live in the Land we call Holy. Rev Colin Douglas





Owl Magic visited Rainbows in February: the girls were fascinated and even got to hold an owl. Can you count them all?



Pennywell Rainbows planted daffodils outside the church in September and here they are flowering in February.

Easter Eggs

Your Easter egg can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia. Since ancient times people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.





Cramond Kirk halls

NEW CRAMOND KIRK HALL WEBSITE

Please have a look at the new Cramond Kirk halls website at https://www.cramondkirkhall.com/

Congratulations to our staff member, Evans, who has designed this. It's now very easy to enquire about booking the halls by clicking on the "Hall Hire" button. The site also has information about the many groups using the halls - from the Cramond Playgroup to the Young Engineers.

Meet Dot Yorkston



Dot is a constant presence in Pennywell Kirk, quietly being wherever help is needed. On Sundays she comes in early to set up the teas, lead a door duty team and regularly reads one of the Lessons. She helps bring in food to be handed out after the service: food left over from Fidra Court and Waitrose. Any food remaining goes to Muirhouse Millennium Centre on a Monday. And on Monday she's in

early again - opening up for the Coffee Morning and looking after those who attend. Anyone struggling to walk or needing someone to talk to - Dot is there.

When Dot's husband James died, she says 'the Church was my saviour', and especially appreciated being able to sit alone in the sanctuary to pray. Soon after that Dot became an elder. She visits the elderly at home and in hospital, is on the Kirk Session and Youth Team and is a reserve on the Union Integration Group. She has visited local schools and assisted with publicity. Dot hates missing Sunday worship and watches online if she can't attend. She says she always gets a lot out of the services and particularly likes the fresh approach of the congregation-led services.

As well as giving so much of her time and talent to the church, Dot cares for family and follows her favourite tenor, Adam Lacey, attending concerts all over the country.

Dot, a big thank you from Edinburgh Northwest Kirk for the love and commitment you show to your Lord and his people.

ENK social activities

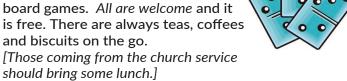


CRAMOND COFFEE & CHAT takes place every Monday from 10.30 am to 12 noon in the Gathering Space of Cramond Kirk Hall. We hope to see you there.

'THE PLACE TO BE' COFFEE MORNING takes place in Pennywell Kirk every Monday at 10 am. All are welcome.

PENNYWELL KIRK GAME GROUP

meets on the last Sunday of the month, playing dominoes and other board games. All are welcome and it is free. There are always teas, coffees and biscuits on the go.



PENNYWELL KIRK FILM AFTERNOONS

take place on the last Sunday in the month at 3.30 pm. For more information contact Violetta on VFejszes@churchofscotland.org.uk



Pennywell goes **'ECO**



In recent weeks conversations at Pennywell have taken place on the initial steps in becoming a member of the Eco Congregation Scotland. With an Eco focussed service on Sunday 16 February a better understanding of how to be more Eco friendly took place and, with support of the Session, the next steps will be to flesh out a Bronze Award application. As John, an Award Assessor and who is well known at Pennywell, explained the first step is to go through the 'Check Up' list, see what areas may need addressing and note how Eco friendly we are already.

Did you know that 25% of the Scottish population suffer from fuel poverty? Were you aware that 33% of heat is lost through walls while 20% is lost through doors and windows? Can we all hear our parents shouting at us, "Close that door!"? Simple ideas like draught excluders and ensuring the windows close fast are easy to follow as well as advice from Energy Saving Trust https://energysavingtrust. org.uk/ or Home Energy Scotland https://www. homeenergyscotland.org/. Ask in church for a second opinion! Do not fall for the numerous scams relating to energy savings from unsolicited phone calls or cold

With spring months coming our thoughts turn to our gardens and how we can be slightly more 'green'. At Pennywell there are some ideal areas for growing crops such as herbs and leaf vegetables. We also have good links to several community gardening groups including Lauriston Farm. One popular initiative is Incredible Edibles which 'sprouted' at Todmorden and is now nationwide. The ethos is easy to adapt. Consider a large pot on one's doorstep with salad leaves or bunching carrots.

If you have any thoughts or want to discuss it more please just ask John MacLennan (easy to see in his waistcoats!) iohnmaclennanuk@gmail.com or Alan Fisher (he feeds information to the screen each Sunday!) fishatthewell@hotmail.com.

Now... watch this space!

Ferrywell Youth Project



Lynne Williams presents cheque to John Gillan, FYP Project Leader

Ferrywell Youth Project has been operating for over 10 years supporting young people in Pilton, Muirhouse and Drylaw. The service enables them to make better choices and provides a safe space and a consistent presence in young lives that can be facing considerable challenges and instability. They operate lunch clubs, counselling services, after school clubs and residential events.

Exercise, craft and trips to the countryside help to build self-esteem and resilience. Many of these young people do not experience this in any other setting. The team at Ferrywell work very closely with the schools who are very appreciative of the support given, at a time where their services are stretched.

Cramond Kirk Hall hosted an art exhibition and sale in aid of Ferrywell Youth Project. This was organised by Suresh Sanders and local artist, Lynne Williams, and raised £1,300 for the charity.

If you wish to volunteer or donate to Ferrywell, please contact them via their website: ferrywell.org.uk

CRAMOND DRAMA GROUP - PANTO CONFIRMED!

The Cramond Drama Group is delighted to confirm that there will be another pantomime this Christmas at Cramond Kirk Halls. The team is busy putting the final touches to the script. There will be an official launch party in early June - details to publicised nearer the time

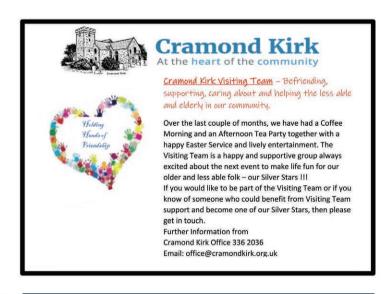
If you are interested in helping with the pantomime, either in an acting or support role, please get in touch with Cramond Drama Group by emailing Cramond-dramagroup@gmail.com or by completing this short survey https://s.surveyplanet.com/x726fwm0

MICE IN THE KIRK!

Led by the minister mouse, a mischief of mice has settled in Cramond Kirk! A cozy of knitters from the Wednesday Crafting Group – Jessie, Liz, Lois and Sarah – created beautiful mice which are strategically placed



around the Kirk. To date there are 10 mice delighting everyone who enters the Kirk. How many will you spot?







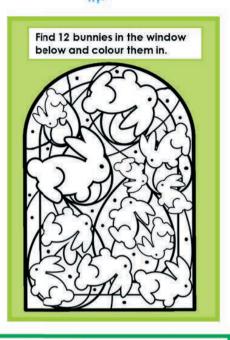


YOUNG GRAPEVINE



All things bright and beautiful...





THE KIRK MICE

Did you know that a group of mice is called a mischief?

One mischief arrived in Cramond Kirk in time for Christmas and is settling in very nicely. Have you seen them yet?



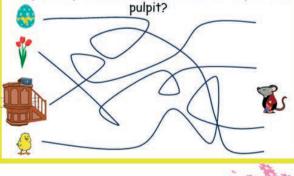








Can you help Minister Mouse find her way to the





What do you call the Easter Bunny on Easter Monday?



Eggs-austed!!

What is MAUNDY THURSDAY?

Maundy Thursday this year is on 17th April. Maundy comes from the Latin word, mandare, which means command.

On this day we look back to what Jesus did:



At the Last Supper Jesus shared bread and wine with His disciples as a way to remember His body and His blood.



Jesus washed His disciples' feet. He was showing them how to be humble and that everyone should help others.



Jesus said, "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you" (John 13:34)



Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and he was arrested.

WORD SEARCH The unused letters make up a word associated with Easter

CK GGA R M В

BUNNY CHICK **CROSS EASTER** EGG HOPE **JESUS**



Can you find 8 differences?



Happy Easter!



Hoppy Easter!

Ride to the Sun 2025: The Big

On Saturday 21st June 2025 witness the mesmerising sight of up to 1,000 bike lights illuminating Cramond Road South during the Summer Solstice night. This special 10th anniversary Ride to the Sun is the perfect opportunity to reignite your New Year resolutions and ioin a unique cycling experience.



Sunrise at Cramond

What is Ride to the Sun?

It is a free, semi-organised 100-mile night ride from Carlisle to Cramond. Conceived by local cycling enthusiasts Fraser Maxwell and Gary Cameron, the route is mostly flat, with one steady seven-mile climb up the brilliantly named 'Devil's Beef Tub' outside Moffat. Primarily using B roads and minor roads makes it accessible and enjoyable for all.

Who Can Participate?

Anyone with a properly functioning bike, good lights, and a reasonable level of fitness. Riders of all abilities are welcome, but it's important to be prepared for the distance.

What Kind of Bike Should You Use?

Road or cyclocross bikes are ideal. Mountain bikes are manageable with slick tyres and high pressure. The road surfaces are generally good with no gravel sections.

How Long Does It Take?

Duration varies depending on fitness and stops along the way. It's not a race, so riders set off at different times depending on their estimated speed, aiming to reach Cramond by sunrise at 4.26 am. Starting times range from 5 pm to 9 pm.

Safety and Support

The ride is unsupported. Participants are responsible for their safety and recovery. Help from fellow riders is common. Cycling with a group or a buddy is strongly recommended.

Food Stops

There are several food stops along the way ending at Cramond Kirk Hall (midnight to 6 am) for breakfast provided by Fresh Start Volunteers and supported by Craigalmond District Scouts.

Transport to Carlisle

Craigalmond District Scouts offer bike and coach transport from Cramond to Carlisle as a fundraiser. This service accommodates around 300 cyclists and sells out guickly. Tickets on sale in March at www.craigalmondscouts.org.

Join this unforgettable ride and experience the magic of this special 10th anniversary cycle through the night to the sunrise! www.ridetothesun.co.uk

STOP PRESS: Edith Butler and Rev Ian Gilmour from ENK plan to take part.



CRAMOND WALKERS

April to June 2025

Dirleton, Yellowcraigs and North Berwick: 8 km Tuesday 1 April Friday 25 April Wemyss Circular: 12 km Wednesday 30 April

Scone circular and Quarrymill Woodland Park: 11 km

Saturday 10 May Leven and Lundin Links Circuit: 10.5 km Friday 16 May Auchterarder and Cloan Glen: 9.5 km Thursday 22 May Den of Alyth and Tullyfergus: 10.5 km Friday 6 June Galashiels to Tweedbank: 11 km

Wednesday 18 June Strathclyde Park and Chatelherault: 12 km

For information about meeting points and start times go to https://www.cramondkirk.org. uk/whats-on/cramond-walkers/ or email cramond.walkers@yahoo.co.uk

CONTACT US

Cramond Kirk The Kirk Office Cramond Kirk Hall 1 Kirk Cramond Edinburgh EH4 6HZ E: office@cramondkirk. org.uk T: 0131 336 2036

The Kirk Office is open Monday to Friday, 9.15 am to 12.15 pm and is situated in the Kirk Hall.

To contact the Hall Manager, David Haggarty, regarding hall bookings please call 0131 312 6911 or e-mail: hallenguiries@ cramondkirk.org.uk

Pennywell Kirk 42 Pennywell Gardens, Edinburgh, EH4 4PE Email: tokandmchurch@ gmail.com Office answer machine: 0131 467 2922

Editorial team:

Lesley Cumming, Rev Elspeth Harley, Louise Madeley, Gill Massie, Jane Robson

Contact us: editor@cramondkirk.org.uk





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