

KARAIL

AUTUMN /
WINTER 2023



COVER FEATURING
CRAIL CHURCH
COLLECTION ITEMS



WELCOME

This edition of Karail features articles about key elements and the history of Crail Church. At present, **the congregation of Crail Church is trying to reverse the decision to dispose of the church building.**

An event has been organised to discuss the long term **future of Crail Church building.**

Saturday 28th October in Crail Church
10 am to 12.00 pm

We need your thoughts and ideas.

Church Services are every **Sunday at 10.00am** (unless otherwise indicated in Dates for Diary).

OUR TEAM

Session Clerk & Hall Let: Mr Andrew Purves
9 Felkington Avenue, Crail
T: 01333 451941 / 07787325491
E: crailchurchsessionclerk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs Diana Brown
Kirk Wynd, Crail
T: 01333 451790
E: browndiana17@hotmail.com

Interim Moderator: Rev. Nigel Robb

Organist: Ms Janice Nisbet

Roll Keeper: Mrs Patricia Dewhirst
6 Carr Crescent, Crail
T: 01333 451571
E: padewhirst@btinternet.com

Karail & Web Editor: Miss Heather Aird
E: heatheraird@btinternet.com

PARISH REGISTER

DEATHS

02/03/23	May Helen Ward	Beechwalk
04/04/23	Irene Stewart	Todds Green
05/04/23	Robert Kerr	Carr Crescent
06/04/23	Mary Peebles	Middlefield Road
11/04/23	Jenny Brett	Tolbooth Wynd
07/09/23	Jim Davidson	Langhouse Green



*Committed to God's
merciful keeping in
the sure and certain
hope of the
resurrection to
eternal life*

WISDOM & WINE

We have much to learn from the spiritual wisdom of people of faith who have gone before us. Peter and Dorothy Neilson will introduce us to a series of Celtic characters and their spiritual practices, beginning with Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. Wine and Soft drinks will be available.



Crail Kirk Hall
7-9pm



Wednesday 11th October
Wednesday 8th November
Wednesday 6th December

MARY RONALDSON PEEBLES

30/10/1923 - 06/04/2023

Mary was born in Glasgow on 30th October 1923, middle child of William and Janet Peebles. Mary had an older brother, Dalziel and a younger sister, Margaret (both now deceased). Her father, William was a pharmacist with his own shop and for many years, Mary was his pharmacy assistant. After Mary's father died, she moved to work in the pharmacy department of Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

Mary and Margaret loved to travel and on several occasions drove to the continent, touring France, Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

In 1990 Mary and Margaret moved to live in Middlefield Road, Crail and became elders of Crail Parish Church and members of the church choir, which they both enjoyed.

Sadly in June 2022, Margaret passed away in the care of St Andrews House Care Home. On the occasion of Mary's 99th Birthday she was delighted when Rev. Scott Burton visited and celebrated home communion accompanied by her district elder and friend, Billy Hunter.

Sadly Mary's health deteriorated and she passed away in Adamson Hospital in Cupar on 6th April 2023, a few months short of her 100th birthday.

Her funeral was held at Brewsterwells crematorium and she would have been pleased to have the service conducted by Rev. Scott Burton.

LETTER FROM INTERIM MODERATOR

Recently I attended a series of lectures on architectural development and the particular development of the style of building known as 'skyscrapers'. I learned that the term derives from a type of sail used on the large sailing ships, and then a style of hat worn by women in Regency times, and also a feature of baseball. Only in 1882 did the term begin to be applied to buildings which were being built in the cities of the USA.

The lecturer pointed out that human beings are not equipped for climbing more than five stories and this prevented any idea of tall buildings, if other inventions had not been available. The manufacture of steel to reinforce tall buildings, and that of the flushing toilet, the telephone and the elevator were all required to allow the building of the structure known and much loved by some as 'skyscrapers'. Soon there was a great deal of competition to build higher and higher buildings in cities across the USA, from New York to San Francisco.

The idea of the need of other inventions to contribute and make possible the advance of one form of human life and development, seems to me to apply to the particular circumstances of the Crail congregation at this time in its history.

Crail congregation's continuation has been affirmed as part of the two coastal parishes in the Presbytery Mission Plan. The Plan has been endorsed and approved by the Presbytery and relevant General Assembly authorities. Crail's congregation and its life and witness will continue no matter what may happen to the much-loved Crail church building.

The recent Presbytery Historic Buildings Group report to the Presbytery has led to huge distortions and confusion in the press and in the minds of many throughout Fife. What is clear is that the group made some recommendations which will be considered when the Presbytery, the General Trustees and the General Assembly body responsible for the Implementation of Presbytery Mission Planning review the Fife Presbytery Mission Plan. When the Plan was adopted by the Presbytery, it was acknowledged that reviews of the buildings of the East Neuk of Fife would take place around the anniversary of the Plan's approval.

The congregation is keen for the decision to dispose of the building to be reversed, but must provide cogent, convincing, and irrefutable reasons for this alteration to the Presbytery Mission Plan. It is acknowledged that there will be considerable expenditure required to make the Crail Church building both flexible and 'a well-equipped place in the right place' (which is the General Assembly policy on buildings to be retained under the Presbytery Mission Plans).

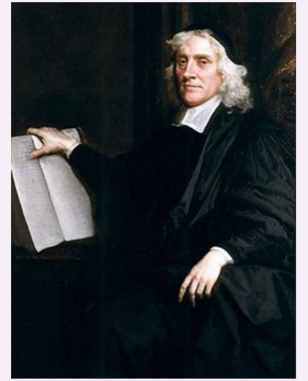
The congregations will need, like skyscrapers, to provide evidence of how fresh missional activities can be accommodated, sustained and provided by the membership in any refurbished Church building. This is a huge challenge to the Kirk Session and congregation as it will require imagination and the recruitment of people to undertake new and fresh endeavours to bring the Gospel to the parish.

Just as importantly, the community of Crail obviously will also have to be part of the process and express its willingness to support



ARCHBISHOP JAMES SHARP

Reverend James Sharp was minister here at St. Mary's Church from 1648 to 1660. During those 12 years at Crail, he married Helen Moncrieff of Randerston and had seven children.



the congregation in this venture. The community beyond the Congregation will also have to affirm and find appropriate and realistic uses for the building if it becomes flexible and designed for multi-purpose use.

The missional aspect, like the introduction of steel for a skyscraper, will be essential to articulate if the Church authorities are to be persuaded. The community will contribute, like the elevator and the telephone to the possibility of skyscrapers being built, in many other ways to produce additional evidence required, if any change in the Presbytery Mission Plan can be achieved.

The community will be given the opportunity to voice its support and engage with the congregation in the autumn. It is crucial that the congregation has a strong mission and energy to engage with the community and this the Kirk Session is hoping to identify in the coming weeks. It is the hope of the Kirk Session that, in parallel, there will be enthusiasm and imaginative ideas from those who are not members of the congregation to assist the members of Kirk Session in their endeavours at this critical juncture.

I hope that the summer has brought opportunities for rest and relaxation for all.

Faithfully yours,
Nigel J Robb (Revd)

He later became notorious for being a turncoat and insisting that Bishops be restored in the Church of Scotland. He himself became an Archbishop the year after he left Crail. In 1679 he was dragged from his coach and murdered on Magus Muir near Strathkinness on his way back to St.Andrews from the south. There is a commemorative cairn in that spot and also a splendid black and white marble monument in Holy Trinity Church, St.Andrews

White marble monument in Holy Trinity Church, St.Andrews



Commemorative cairn on Magus Muir

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church has had a busy year with lots of activities and fun for everyone of all ages. We celebrated our first birthday in May and hosted a party to celebrate.

In June the team visited another Messy Church in Ballingry and enjoyed making wild seed bombs, pictures

made up of seeds and planting seeds out in the church garden. It was great to join another group and see how Messy Church is helping to support families in other parts of Fife.

In July we had a special Messy Church at the seaside and spent a great afternoon down on the beach at the harbour, playing games and doing lots of sandcastle building. The hot dogs and s'mores were a big hit with everyone.

This session we are starting a new project in the Kirk Hall garden so that we can learn more about nature. The children will be deciding what will be put in the garden and what they will be growing. If you would like to help, please come along and join us. **Messy Church meets on the last Wednesday of the month in Crail Kirk Hall, Marketgate 4.30-6pm** (Dates: 27th September, 25th October, 29th November). The Messy Church Nativity will be on Sunday 17th December at 10.00am in Crail Church – everyone welcome.

Messy Church Crail has linked up with the Big Hoose project (The Cottage Family Project <https://www.thecottagefamilycentre.org.uk/news/big-hoose-fife-project-0>) and has some toiletry items available to distribute free to families in the local area. The items are available during Messy Church meeting times.

The team would like to thank everyone who has supported us through the Co-Operative Community Fund. Your donations mean that we can continue to provide all the activities and food for free.



If you would like to know more about Messy Church we would be happy to chat to you informally about what we do as we know how hard it is to come along when you aren't sure of the format. You can email Mandy, Heather, Elizabeth, Carol or Jane at: messychurchcrail@gmail.com



Come and join us for Messy Church, a relaxed way
of Church for families and everyone!

Activities, games, songs, worship and food

All Ages Welcome

Crail Kirk Hall

4.30pm - 6.00pm

Last Wednesday of the month

Excluding July & December





SHOEBOX APPEAL



Messy Church are once again organising filled shoeboxes to send abroad in time for Christmas. We are looking for shoeboxes to help with this and would appreciate your help.

Despite the difficulties that they face everyday – through poverty, illness, disability or other disadvantages – receiving a shoebox brings such joy to children and adults in Eastern Europe, that their faces light up with huge smiles.

Shoeboxes will be distributed to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. It's easy to choose gifts for people that have so little. Shampoo, a pair of socks, a notepad, a small toy, a bag of sweets – things we take for granted will seem like luxuries to people living in poverty. By filling a shoebox with simple things you can bring joy this Christmas.

Please bring any shoeboxes (wrapped in Christmas paper or not) to Church and leave in the tower. Please see below ideas of items you might donate for us to put in a shoebox.

SHOE BOX APPEAL



By filling
a shoebox
with simple
things you
can bring
joy this
Christmas



shoeboxappeal.org

Items we would be grateful of for filling shoeboxes are:

Toothbrush	Card Games
Toothpaste	Deodorant
Soap	Hair brush
Scarf	Toy animal
Gloves/Hat	Toy Cars
Underwear	Colouring Book
Gift/Toy	Stationery
Crayons	Craft Kit
Wooden toys	Socks
Paints	Hair Bands

For more information contact Mandy Guthrie (450393).

TECHNOLOGY & CRAIL CHURCH

As we emerged from Covid lockdown, but with restrictions remaining, we used Minister John Murray's 'outside broadcasts' as part of Sunday services. These were videos recorded as computer files to allow later playback and projection onto a temporary screen in church. Unfortunately the technical quality was not very good, because of equipment limitations, masonry pillars obstructing view and the level of brightness in church.

Since then we have been considering how technology might be better used - particularly 'streaming', which will enable services to be exchanged live, as video to and from our linked church of St Ayle - and indeed from other churches and sources too. This is technology that potentially opens up The World!

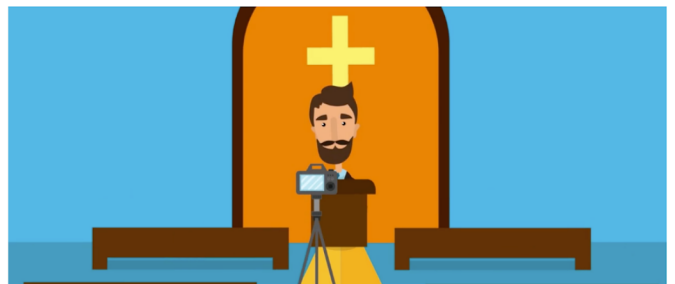
The Church of Scotland is very keen to develop the use of streaming, to support worship, as fewer Ministers are available in the traditional Parish role. Many churches now do this routinely. Crail Kirk Session has been considering options and opportunities for some time. At our meeting of 17th August, it was decided to go ahead to instal a streaming system. An essential is to have reasonably fast Internet access. To this end we now have a broadband contract with BT, with a telephone handset and broadband router installed in the Kirk Hall and working well. Internet access is now available for our Messy Church and for other users - and free WiFi too for those wishing to catch up on emails whilst enjoying coffee and cake at ChatBite on a Wednesday!!

With so many uncertainties remaining in the Church of Scotland, it is thought important to



be flexible and to keep options open. With this in mind a hybrid approach is felt to provide best value - basically to stream INTO the hall, but stream OUT FROM the church building.

This 'hybrid' solution, whilst maintaining the use of the Kirk Hall as a companionable venue for future development of worship and for community use, will also provide an attractive Church from which to stream out church services, weddings, funerals, concerts, large meetings or talks - and who knows what else. It will keep the church building aired and in use. It will also keep the organ maintained and in use - an organ described by Chris Bragg, during the recent St Andrews Organ Week, as the most important in Fife.



With the continuing uncertainty making planning difficult - and at least as a concept - we anticipate a future mix of minister-led services, opportunities for congregational involvement and the use of streamed material. Much work remains to realise all of this and we will provide updates as progress is made.

Crail Parish Church Website

Keep up to date with all the latest news at **www.crailchurch.com**. You can also subscribe to receive any news straight to your inbox. As well as the latest news, Crail Parish Church's

website has a wealth of information about its history aswell as digital copies of the Karail magazine.



CRAIL CHURCH STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

The Windows in the Tower

The windows were gifted to the church of Crail by a descendant of Sir William Merton (died c 1539) and are in the modern idiom. They were dedicated on Sunday 21st June 1970.

The left-hand window of the two larger panels is based on the CREATION and the one on the right on REDEMPTION.

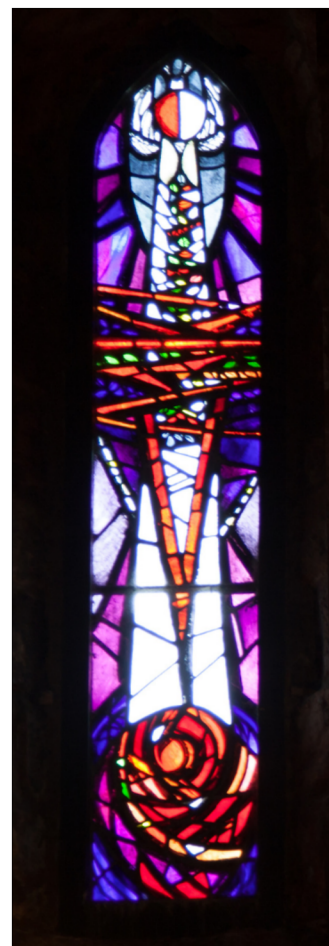
In the CREATION window, the idea of the division of light and darkness was taken as the starting point, and this is expressed in the shaft of clear white against a strong background of rich purple colours. This shaft of light emanates from the circular, red motif, representing both a "source of life" and the formation of the Sun and Moon, at the top of the window and illuminates the entire centre of the design until it falls upon the red Earth shape at the base. The Earth has been envisaged as a whirling, fiery shape which is slowly solidifying in a Sea of molten rock. Stretching up from the Earth, there rises a simplified tree-like form, representing the growth of vegetation upon Earth, while "Animal Life" is represented by the white bird shown descending towards Earth from the shape (Sun) at the top of the design.

The starting point in the design of the REDEMPTION window was the Cross of the Crucifixion which, in strong red colours forms the central motif of the window. The Cross rises from a "World in Torment and Flames" (base of design) and stretches upwards towards the red "life source" disc at the top.

Stained Glass Lancet Window (south aisle)

The reopening of this medieval window is the latest restoration work carried out within the Church. The work of local craftsmen it marks the recovery of a 13th Century lancet window which was long infilled with random rubble and concealed by lath and plaster.

The inset stained-glass window, designed and executed by Miss Judith Campbell, D.A., carries a purely decorative motif. The repair of the ancient setting and the window were gifted as a memorial by a member of the congregation. The dedication took place in June 1975.



CRAIL PROVOST CHAIN



The Provost Chain was presented to Crail Town Council in 1952 by Mrs Catherine Arrighi, widow of Bailie William Ford Arrighi, who served on the Town Council for 12 years.

It is inscribed " Presented to the Royal Burgh of Crail by Mrs Catherine A Ford Arrighi in memory of her late husband Bailie W Ford Arrighi."

Provosts of Crail inscribed on the chain are:

- John M Calder 1948-1961
- Tom Forsyth 1961-1963
- Douglas Gifford 1963-1969
- George Simpson 1969-1975

The last Provost of Crail 1969 to 1975

"My father was very proud to be the last Provost of Crail. He was always a very community orientated man. He always had a notebook and pencil with him if he went to the Golf Hotel for a drink in order that he would be able to note anything he was asked to deal with. My father would walk the boundaries of Crail every year. I am not sure if that is still done.

Only four Provosts have worn the Chain and only three disks have been engraved. Douglas Gifford and George Simpson names are on the same disk. I do not know why."

Anne Mayes

Donor of Provost's chain to Crail

On Friday night a Provost of the 800-year-old Royal Burgh of Crail will wear a chain of office for the first time.

The chain will be handed over to the present Provost, Mr J. Calder, at a public meeting in the 17th-century Town Hall by the donor, Mrs Catherine Ford Arrighi, 301 Perth Road, Dundee.

Mrs Arrighi is the widow of Bailie William Ford Arrighi, who served for 12 years on Crail Town Council.

The gold chain carries a medallion with the burgh's coat - of - arms worked in enamel. It is inscribed,

"Presented to the Royal Burgh of Crail by Mrs Catherine A. Ford

Arrighi in memory of her late husband, Bailie W. Ford Arrighi."

An Edinburgh man, Bailie Arrighi retired to Crail in 1929 and made his home there for many years. He had a great love of the burgh and all its traditions and worked unceasingly for the furtherance of the community.

About two years ago the Queen Mother visited Crail and the burgh suddenly awakened to the fact that their Provost had no chain of office.

Bailie Arrighi discussed the situation with his wife, suggesting that they might make a joint gift of the chain. He died this summer, and Mrs Arrighi has carried out his wish.

NOTABLE SCULPTOR

Mr Arrighi was the third son of the late Louis Arrighi, the young Italian who arrived in Scotland to seek his fortune and became one of her best-known sculptors. He undertook work on the Wallace Monument at Causewayhead, Stirling, and the Wallace Statue, Aberdeen.

Mr Arrighi, who was educated at Daniel Stewart's College, started his career as a



Mrs Arrighi with the chain.

Siebe Gorman & Co., Ltd., the London submarine engineers who were at that time engaged on a contract raising two sunken vessels in the Forth.

He later served his apprenticeship with Brown & Glegg, Edinburgh, with whom he was to remain for 38 years.

Mr Arrighi had a keen interest in Scottish ornithology, and was among the founders of the National Cage Bird Society.

When he retired he decided to make his home in Kilconquhar, his mother's home. No house was available at the time, and he took up residence at West Clifton, Crail.

During his 12 years of office in the burgh he occupied many positions. Among them were convener of Water, Drainage and Lighting Committee, representative on Fife County Council, commissioner for Crail at the Convention of Royal Burghs, clerk of works, beach and fire superintendent, representative on the Small Burghs of Fife and Kinross Association. He was also president of Crail branch of the St Andrew's Ambulance Association until the outbreak of war, when he became leader of the first-aid party.

Mrs Arrighi is a daughter of the late Mr G. C. Taylor, The Grove, Downfield,

RECENT CONCERTS

Those of us who regularly attend services in Church will know how marvellous the acoustics are. This was especially apparent when we still had a choir, and even now when our organist, Janice, plays before, during and after the service. The Church, with its large audience capacity, is a great venue for concerts and Crail audiences have recently enjoyed two wonderful but very different performances.

The first was on 23 July during the Crail Arts Festival, a concert by the Kammer Philharmonie Europa, nine very talented musicians who, apart from the cellist, played for us standing up. The orchestra was founded in Cologne and has a development programme that supports young musicians with scholarships and bursaries for tuition and orchestral experience. One or two are selected to travel with experienced orchestral players as an introduction to international performing. Their recent UK tour included venues that ranged from Cornwall to Birnham. The Crail concert was the final one of the tour. Their playing was so well polished by this time and they clearly were enjoying themselves as much as the audience. The programme included works by Corelli, Rachmaninoff, Elgar and Mozart, all beautifully played by the small ensemble. A trumpet concerto by Neruda had the soloist, Cyrill Gussaroff, conjuring the most beautiful one of the instrument to front the piece, filling the Church with a wonderfully rich sound that

belied the chamber orchestra's small size. And Bach's Concerto for two Violins in D-minor rounded off the first half of the programme.

The so-called Double Violin Concerto does employ two solo violins, but it is not, strictly speaking, a double concerto, for the two violins play not so much against one another, as both together against the remainder of the orchestra. In the middle movement's expressive melody, the orchestra is used only as an accompaniment. Many of us will still associate the work with performances by the Oistrakhs (father and son) and other revered violinists with large orchestras. But this performance lacked nothing in the beautiful playing of the leader/concert master, with the other first violinist, fronting the remaining six strings. The audience loved it, as they did the rousing and energetic jazz-themed medley that the orchestra provided as an encore to end the evening. Rapturous applause and an audience leaving with warm smiles on their face – what more could we wish for?

The second concert, on Thursday 4 August, was when the annual University of St Andrews Organ Week held a concert in Crail Parish Church. This international gathering of organists from around the world, for courses and performances, featured concerts at several venues throughout the region. Crail was lucky enough to have internationally renowned organist Katelyn Emerson sharing the concert with virtuoso violinist Ben Shute in a programme featuring works by "Bach ... and the Italians". The duo combined beautifully in performances that enthralled an audience made up of organists attending the St Andrews week and a goodly contingent of locals. The programme was well balanced to feature the character of the instruments and the impressive musicianship





CRAIL CHURCH ORGAN

1936 – 2023

of the performers, which transfixed the audience. The highlights were perhaps Bach's Orchestral Suite no. 3, better known as his Air on the G-string, and a Chaconne in G Minor attributed to Tomas Vitali (1663-1745) but arranged by Leopold Charlier (1867-1936). Most of the audience will have never heard the Crail organ display the range of tones and dynamics that Katelyn conjured from that wonderful instrument, which Chris Bragg, the week's organiser, has described as the most important organ in Fife!

As many will know, the organ was originally built in 1892 by Harrison & Harrison for the house of John Blyth, a Kirkcaldy linen magnate. They later became one of the finest organ builders of the inter-war period. In 1923 they built the one in Dundee's Caird Hall, regarded as one of the most magnificent examples of a British 'Imperial' style civic organ anywhere in the world, greatly contrasting with the 'grand saloon organ' that continues to support worship in Crail Church, its home since 1936.

Occasionally the Church has requests from visitors to play the organ and these can usually be accommodated. This invitation can be extended to local organists and others by prior arrangement with Andrew (crailchurchsessionclerk@gmail.com). The Church is keen that the organ should be seen as a continuing resource for music in Crail and there have been several suggestions that we should embark on a programme of organ recitals. Maybe lunchtime, once a month? Suggestions welcome, again through Andrew.

Geoff Robinson (*Photos by Peter Salkeld*)

You may have seen Michael Portillo on TV presenting a programme about train travel in U.K. and abroad. He is also a politician. However, did you know that his mother was Scottish and went to St Leonard's School in St Andrews and his grandparents lived in Kirkcaldy? His grandfather was John Waldegrave Blyth, a wealthy linen manufacturer and a lover of music and the arts. In fact he regularly played the organ in Dysart Church. He enjoyed playing the organ so much that he had one built in his house on Loughborough Road, Kirkcaldy. He chose a Harrison & Harrison organ made in Durham, one of the best in the country. Later he moved further along the road to Wilby House which is now a care home, and took the organ with him. Now, what has that to do with Crail?

Well, in 1936 our church bought that organ and had it built into the eastern arch where you see it now. Professional organists love to play it, so it is regularly tuned and kept in good order. Wouldn't it be lovely if Michael Portillo came to Crail (not by rail sadly) and saw where his grandfather's organ had ended up?



CRAIL PRIMARY SCHOOL



We have had a great start to the year at Crail Primary School and have been enjoying getting to know each other in our new classes and getting engrossed in our new learning.

In August we were delighted to welcome new children and their families to our Nursery. The children are beginning to settle into the Nursery routines and making new friends.

We were also delighted to welcome new children and families to our school at the start of this session. We have three lively classes full of creativity, learning and teamwork. Our children have been getting as many opportunities as possible to work together across the stages and enjoy coming together during Outdoor Learning which sees them exploring our beautiful Crail coastline and community.

In our community, the children thoroughly enjoyed a recent visit to the church where they got a tour of the church, talks about the different features of the church and even took part in a fun quiz.

We have enjoyed coming together for Assembly to celebrate birthdays, share wider achievements and applaud our Star Achievers. We have discussed the expectations for the year ahead and why having a growth mindset will help us to do our best learning.

We are looking forward to our exciting year ahead!

CRAIL COMMUNITY CHOIR

Crail Community Choirs Autumn season has just started. We aim to promote community spirit, fun and of course the pleasure singing together brings. There is no need to be able to read music but if you can that's fine too.



The Choir meets on Monday evenings from 7.30-9pm in Crail Church Hall. There are currently over 50 singers however new members are always welcome to come along and join in as we prepare for this years concert on 30th November in the Community Hall. Rehearsals are generally in 12 week blocks followed by a social night so if you like to sing, have fun and meet people within the community come along and join! Singing lifts the spirits and there's nothing like music and song to help you through the good and bad times in life.

12TH FIFE EAST NEUK SCOUTS

The 12th Fife East Neuk Scout Group have been busy since the last edition of Karail. In June we had our group camp which had the theme of 'Star Wars'. All five sections participated in the weekend, with Squirrels attending their first camp. It was a glorious weekend, and we made the most of the sunshine to learn about survival skills, making hammocks, lighting fires and we even had the chance to make our own lightsabres for the ultimate lightsabre battle.

In August, 40 scouts, explorers and leaders from the East Neuk and St Andrews went to Kandersteg in Switzerland for the 100th Jamboree of the Kandersteg International Scout Centre. We participated in various activities such as high ropes, bungee jumping and hiking in the Alps as well as learning about different cultures and making friends from across the world.

We had our annual barbecue during the Pittenweem Arts Festival which is one of our biggest fundraisers throughout the year. All sections were involved and served people with burgers, stovies and home baked goodies.

In August, 12 Scouts/Explorers were privileged to camp on the May Island for the weekend. We had a learning and fun filled weekend, including learning how to ring birds, moth trapping, beach cleaning, swimming in the sea, climbing the lighthouse and travelling in style of the Rib Speedboat.

In September, our Cubs attended The Howling which was a Scottish Wide Cub Jamboree at Fordell Firs. They had great fun participating in over 20 activities such as caving, archery, climbing walls, water slide, laser tag and a campfire.

We would like to thank Crail Guild who very kindly gave money to the squirrels and beavers and we plan to go tenpin bowling in the coming months.

Looking forward, every section continues to grow and we have lots of camps to look forward to, including the Red Rose Jamboree in West Lancashire and Blair Atholl's International Jamboree.





CRAIL ARTS FESTIVAL

19-29 JULY 2023



Yes, it's a new name: the long running Trust is being replaced by a SCIO – an incorporated charity with some structural and operational benefits. Inserting Arts into the name emphasises the prime focus of the organisation, and indeed its origin as an Art Exhibition. The 2023 Exhibition was again the central feature of the Festival, open daily in the Town Hall. Sales of the works of local artists benefited them to the tune of almost £4,000.



Another distinctive feature of the Festival is the extensive children's programme. This year there were 22 events, plus a scavenger hunt, and games at the street market, all popular with locals and visitors alike. Most events were sold out well in advance. And although the weather often threatened the viability of outdoor events, all were successfully held. As indeed was the street market, which attracted a good attendance and generated healthy sales for the arts and crafts stallholders. Food and beverage stalls were well patronised and refreshments were available in the Legion Hall, provided by a very busy team of Guild members and volunteers.



All eleven evening events attracted substantial, even capacity audiences. The presentation of a very funny and novel version of "Robin Hood" by a small versatile team of the well-regarded Illyria company, in the grounds of Crail House, was a great start to the evening programme. The remaining events included accomplished performances of a variety of music genres by, among others, James Grant & the Hallelujah Strings; the German Chamber Orchestra (reported elsewhere in Karail); McFleetwood (Fleetwood Mac tribute band); The Travelling Tent Show (Blues and Jazz); Liz Simmons and friends (Folk Club night); and the Cairn String Quartet (many genres in the one evening).



The sold-out Quiz Night and a very popular Comedy Night added to the programme's wide-ranging appeal. Crowning it all was a final-night fundraising event in aid of Families First St Andrews. Entertainment comprised a ceilidh and disco; an auction, supplemented by collections at other events, helped us to raise £3,000 to support children's arts-related activities by the local charity, a worthy and enjoyable conclusion to a wide-ranging Festival. *(Photos by Peter Salkeld)*



CRAIL PUTTING GREEN

I compare the smooth flowing of Crail Putting Green to a well oiled machine. 2023 was no exception. It's so reassuring to know that our team of volunteers work so well to ensure that our community putting green is managed without a hitch. The Scouts have made good use of the putting green playing on three consecutive evenings. It's fantastic to see youth groups taking the opportunity to play and we invite others to do so. The Crail Wine Club also held a putting competition one evening with alcohol free, competitive spirit and fun displayed in abundance.



By the end of August 2023 we recorded more than 4,000 rounds having been played and we still have weekends in September to be added on. Despite some rubbish, wet weather the green's players are undeterred and putting continues to be a popular Crail attraction. Often we see people by the starter hut waiting for the green to open. Unbelievably, some people have travelled 22 miles solely to play. Others, on playing on every putting green they have seen on their travels, have commented that Crail's is by far the best and we should be charging more per round. Rest assured, as long as the green covers it's costs we will not be doing that. The beauty of our volunteer run green is that it can be affordable for all.

Who would have known that on the year in which we fitted the stand pipe we have not had to water the green in all of July and August? However, the green was given a sprinkle during the whole of sunny June. Access to water on the green has saved the mowing team at least 25 minutes per session as the mowing blades can be cleaned in situ rather than (illegally) being

driven over to the bowling green.

The more than successful Crail Putting Green exists because we have a committed band of happy, positive people who not only mow and man the starter hut but carry out tasks quietly and without fanfare. The fringe of the green is now cut frequently with the push mower by one of the mowing team. A local joiner, urged by his sister, made a rack to hold the putters preventing them from falling domino fashion. Another volunteer gave up three days to help paint the starter hut the striking colours which put a smile on everyone's face as they enter Crail. The retired Crail butcher, unable to tolerate seeing an empty planter, arrived with compost and bedding plants and simply got to it.

The condition of the green has improved year on year due to Crail Golf Society Greenkeepers maintenance by fertilising, scarifying etc. Thank you.

Thank you too to The Golf Hotel staff who every year safely look after the cash box and are unruffled as a putting volunteer interrupts service to pick it up.

Our putting winners this year are: 16 yrs & under: 1st Euan Robertson (photo left), 2nd Stuart Cochrane (far right), 3rd Neve Traynor (Martyn's daughter) Over 16 yrs: Martyn Traynor. As Euan was playing in a competition at the time of the prize giving his young brother, Ian did the honours.



CRAIL FOLK CLUB

Crail Folk Club continues to enjoy good attendances and excellent performances. Our Singers' Nights are also increasingly popular. The last one attracting 15 performers so there's surely something for all to enjoy especially for the price of a £2 ticket. We have three remaining guest nights in 2023. October sees two first timers to



the club. Katie Spencer is a young, fun singer songwriter and Rob McHale a more seasoned performer touring from North Carolina. In November we have what is likely to be our biggest night of the year with American Heidi Talbot

joined by Scotland's very own Boo Hewerdine. Heidi's career highlight until now was singing at the White House, inside rather than busking outside I should clarify. Boo was last with us in Eddi Reader's Band in 2022, the writer of one of Eddi's hits 'The Patience of Angels'. As ever the year finishes with our FREE Christmas Party. Full details and tickets can be had from www.Crail Folk Club.org.uk. 2024's programme is taking shape. Two obvious highlights will be the marvellous singers of Simon & Garfunkel songs 'Bookends' - a sell out at Crail Festival a few years ago, and two consecutive nights sold out at the Byre last year. We also have a rare treat with the queen of English folk Maddy Prior, the singer from Steeleye Span. Keep watching the website for imminent details including tickets.

ROTARY CLUB OF ANSTRUTHER

The club observed something of a recess over the Summer, enjoying social outings to St Andrews University campus at Guardbridge; along to Pittenweem fish market for fish and chips during the Arts Festival; for a meal at The Pavilion in Elie - and for the Club's annual golfing competition at Anstruther. But now back to normal, meeting fortnightly in The Rockies restaurant at Anstruther Golf Club.



Our Charity Coastal Path Walk took place once again, Sunday 3rd September. A blowy but sunny and very pleasant day with wonderful views out over the water. Many fewer walkers this year than usual, but it was a pleasure to welcome back old friends and say hello to new faces. As always there was much to chat about. With the wind at their back, happy smiling walkers lifted the spirits - and of course money will have been raised for the charities chosen by walkers - more on this once the Treasurer has it all worked out.

Looking ahead, the 'Christmas Postal Service' will be run again this year with delivery for Christmas cards and letters to the coastal villages from Elie to Crail. Look out for more details nearer the time. Price will be 40p per card or three for a pound.

The club choir whose members sing for the fun of it, has been out and about again. In a brief entry to the halls of fame the choir joined many other performers to sing in Pittenweem Church during the Arts Festival. As always ably guided by the expert hand of Choir Director Miss Jessie Lyon.



Our Anstruther club is part of one of the world's largest and most successful global membership and humanitarian service organisations, with 1.4 million members in over 200 countries. More about Rotary in the UK can be found at (<https://www.rotarygbi.org>). Thank you once again to all who help, encourage and support us in our work.

CRAIL COMMUNITY HALL



Now that the busy Festival summer is over the Hall is moving into its autumn and winter events. However, August and September are fully booked with weddings, private parties and local fundraising events. Despite this busy schedule we can also offer our first exciting public events of the season.

An all-time first for the hall is a Race Night. Join us for a fundraising flutter and a disco! Start the evening at the betting table and finish on the dance floor. There is no excuse not to enjoy yourself.

The Sunday afternoon concerts had proven very successful last year, and we have been lucky to sign up a varied selection of musicians to entertain on several Sundays throughout the darker months starting from October 8th with the Bruadar Duo. These two talented musicians will take us with them into their world of classic Flute and Guitar dreams. Another concert in the series welcomes a visiting Orchestra to the hall. Don't miss the opportunity to hear the young musicians from Hockerill College performing a wide variety of music from different genres.



November is nonstop with events starting with a Talk by Antonia Laurence Allen, PhD, Reginal Curator for the National Trust for Scotland. This is followed by our Saturday Comedy Night

featuring Phil Differ and Elaine Malcolmson, and on the same weekend, we offer another Sunday afternoon concert with Jazz in the Village. The following Saturday gets Crail dancing to live music by Northern Lights – a crowd favourite in 2022.



December starts with the Christmas Fayre weekend and the Hall's traditional Christmas Concert, again, featuring two groups from St Andrews University. More music is scheduled for the rest of the month before we break for Christmas.

The new year will give you the opportunity to test your knowledge at three quiz nights and we will continue with an exciting mixture of music events on Saturdays and Sundays. There will also be more comedy in February. Watch the space!

On a regular basis the Hall hosts Badminton, Table Tennis and Pickleball Sessions as well as Pilates, Yoga and Barre Classes, Fundraising Events, Folk Club Nights and Friday Lunch Clubs. For further information on everything that's happening at Crail Community Hall check our website.

<https://www.crailcommunityhall.co.uk/>. And, of course, the Hall is available for private hire.

Tickets for all events can be booked through <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/crail-community-partnership>

CHRISTMAS CAROL PUZZLE PAGE

Can you work out the Christmas carols from the prompts?

1. The apartment of 2 psychiatrists
2. The lad is a diminutive percussionist
3. Decorate the entryways
4. Sir Lancelot with laryngitis
5. A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
6. Wanted in December: top forward incisors
7. The smog-less bewitching hour arrived.
8. Exuberation to this orb.
9. 288 Yuletide hours.
10. Do you perceive the same longitudinal pressure which stimulates my auditory sense organs.
11. Stepping on the pad cover.
12. Far back in a hay bin.
13. Leave and do an elevated broadcast
14. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully.
15. Frozen precipitation commence
16. We are Kong, Lear and Not Cole
17. Oh, member of the round table with missing areas
18. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres
19. Vehicular homicide was committed on Dad's mom by a precipitous darling
20. Cup-shaped instruments fashioned of a whitish metallic element
21. Our fervent hope is that you thoroughly enjoy your yuletide season
22. May the Deity bestow an absence of fatigue to mild male humans.
23. Assemble everyone who believes.
24. Obese personification fabricated of compressed mounds of minute crystals.
25. I spied my maternal parent osculating a red-coated, unshaven teamster.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Gift Service

Sunday 3rd December
Crail Parish Church
10.00 am

Joint Bereavement Service

Sunday 3rd December
St Ayles Church, Cellardyke
2.30 pm



Nativity Service

Sunday 17th December
Crail Parish Church
10.00 am

Joint Lessons and Carols Service

Sunday 17th December
Crail Parish Church
2.30 pm



Joint Christmas Eve Service

Sunday 24th December
St Ayles Church, Cellardyke
6.30 pm

Joint Christmas Day Service

Monday 25th December
Crail Parish Church
10.30 am





Chatbite

Every Wednesday

Crail Kirk Hall

**Coffee, Tea &
Home Baking**

10am - 12 noon

Crail Parish Church



DATES FOR DIARY



27/09/23	Messy Church	Crail Kirk Hall	4.30 – 6pm
01/10/23	Guild Dedication Service	Crail Church	10am
05/10/23	Crail Guild Meeting	Crail Kirk Hall	2pm
08/10/23	Bruadar Duo Flute & Guitar Concert	Community Hall	3pm
11/10/23	Wisodm & Wine	Crail Kirk Hall	7-9pm
22/10/23	Orchestra Concert with Hockerill College	Community Hall	3pm
25/10/23	Messy Church	Crail Kirk Hall	4.30 – 6pm
01/11/23	Talk by Antonia Laurence Allen	Community Hall	5pm
02/11/23	Crail Guild Meeting	Crail Kirk Hall	2pm
08/11/23	Wisdom & Wine	Crail Kirk Hall	7-9pm
11/11/23	Party Night with Northern Lights	Community Hall	8pm
12/11/23	Remembrance Sunday Service	Crail Church	10.45am
25/11/23	Guild Coffee Morning	Crail Kirk Hall	10-12noon
29/11/23	Messy Church	Crail Kirk Hall	4.30 – 6pm
02/12/23	Christmas Tree Lighting	Opposite Co-op	4.30pm
02/12/23	Christmas Craft Fayre	Community Hall	11am-4pm

DATES FOR DIARY

03/12/23	Christmas Gift Service	Crail Church	10am
03/12/23	Joint Bereavement Service	St Ayles, Cellardyke	2.30pm
03/12/23	Christmas Craft Fayre	Community Hall	11am-4pm
06/12/23	Wisdom & Wine	Crail Kirk Hall	7-9pm
06/12/23	Kingsbarns Tree Lighting	Kingsbarns Square	6pm
07/12/23	Crail Guild Meeting	Crail Kirk Hall	2pm
17/12/23	Nativity Service	Crail Church	10am
17/12/23	Joint Lessons & Carols Service	Crail Church	2.30pm
24/12/23	Christmas Eve Service	Crail Church	10am
24/12/23	Joint Christmas Eve Service	St Ayles, Cellardyke	6.30pm
25/12/23	Joint Christmas Day Service	Crail Church	10.30am
31/12/23	Joint Service	St Ayles, Anstruther	10.30am
31/01/24	Messy Church	Crail Kirk Hall	4.30-6pm
07/02/24	Crail Guild Meeting	Crail Kirk Hall	2pm

An event has been organised to discuss
the long term future of Crail Church
building.

Saturday 28th October in Crail Church
10 am to 12.00 pm

We need your thoughts and ideas.

