

Donald Clark – Elder

‘Kind, modest, considerate’ • ‘Helpful, kind’ • ‘Good times and good food, good friendship from a gentle man’ • ‘Lemon drizzle!’ • ‘Encouraging and welcoming’

Just some of the words associated with Donald Clark during his time at Craigsbank.



Donald Clark was a very popular and involved member of the congregation for the best part of his life and developed close friendships with many. His Christian values were very important to him and inspired those around him. As a young man, he led the dynamic Youth Fellowship on a Sunday evening, encouraging membership and delivering a packed programme including much socialising and days or weekends away.

This continued and people from that same group holidayed together over the following decades along with regular progressive meals, outings, attendance of Watchnight services – and much cooking and baking.

He was involved in Church BBQs, Christian Aid lunches, lunch club, property duties, the gardening team, the vacancy committee and was a friend to the young and the young of heart.

In short, he was an elder who gave of his time generously and openly and he is already much missed. He died in September 2022.

Two good friends of Donald offered their reflections on a life well lived:

From **Mike Brough:**

I am proud and honoured to have known Donald as a good friend over many years. We met at Craigsbank Church and were inducted as Elders at the same time. We were kindred spirits right from the start in that we were both very practical and held similar Christian values.

This was best exemplified by the gardening team who met regularly, worked hard but always finished with coffee and tasties, usually supplied by Donald. We all enjoyed the gardening team dinners which were held regularly. When Donald hosted he was always well

organised with printed menus and place cards and proudly wearing his Nick Nairn apron. He kept a record of the menu so he did not repeat a dish and they were all delicious.

We were also both involved in Church BBQs, Christian Aid lunches, Church lunch club and lots of property duties. There is a common theme to all this that described Donald perfectly: helping others, friendship and good food.

During the Covid restrictions we met most weeks (when guidelines allowed) at Costa. We always had a laugh trying to get our phones to behave for 'track and trace' and then the Costa app for ordering. Somehow, as well as ordering two cappuccinos, we always seemed to order two millionaire shortbreads as well.

Visiting him in the hospice was not easy but Donald being Donald, he always seemed to perk up and be as positive as he could. The atmosphere, level of professional and personal care he received at the Hospice was both amazing and humbling.

From Alan Kennedy:

Donald become life-long friends with a group at the Youth Fellowship at Craigsbank Church over 50 years ago when the minister was George Grubb with his wife Elizabeth.

The group would meet on Sunday evenings then socialise sometimes in a hotel bar or back at someone's house – quite often at Donald's parents at number 36.

They would go away for weekends to Nethy Bridge, St Andrews or Badachro.

Later on, there were holidays to Portugal and Donald volunteered his car for trips to the Loire Valley and the South of France.

The group also met up with the new Associate Minister Robert Kerr and his wife Anne and that led to adventures to the Scottish islands including Mull and Iona.

There were progressive meals, outings and Hogmanay get-togethers and Donald was often the host. He enjoyed cooking for us and folk still talk about how flambeed his bananas were. Many years later, some folk from that group would still meet with Donald after church or for get-togethers or meals out and continued to enjoy his company.

After Robert and Anne Kerr moved to Canada, Donald kept up his friendship with them with regular calls and he enjoyed visiting them there.

He enjoyed his cars with an early Audi Quattro, various VW Golfs, a car that talked with a voice sounding like Moira Stuart and, of course, the MG Maestro that was only repaired after Donald contacted the celebrity who advertised it, one Noel Edmonds. It was a sad moment when he had to sell his last car though he kept his independence by walking even when offered lifts.

The affection for Donald within the group and all at the church was clear to see and it is a testament to his character that the Donald seen latterly in St Columba's was very much the same kind, modest and considerate person that he was years before.

And a note from Jan Rutherford:

When I joined the Youth Fellowship at Craigsbank it was at Donald's suggestion. I was the youngest by some margin at that point but he was welcoming and encouraging and set the way forward for those to come. In more recent years we served on the Vacancy Committee together and he was always thoughtful and kind, with just the right question, just the right reminder to bring us back on track. He was a gentle man who encouraged my Christian path throughout much of my life, with many a smile and well-placed word.