

# The Steeple

The magazine of  
Craiglockhart Parish Church



## Christian Aid Week Edition

13 – 19 May 2007

Craiglockhart Parish Church  
Craiglockhart Drive North  
Edinburgh  
EH14 1HS  
Tel: 0131 455 8229

Delivered to every house in the Parish  
of Craiglockhart Church.

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**Our Aim is to build a biblical  
community, united in worship and  
service.**

**A Church using its gifts to:**

**Care for its members,**

**Grow in its faith,**

**Reach out with the Gospel to people of  
all ages within the parish, and to**

**Show concern for God's work  
worldwide.**

## Prayers & inspiration 1

**Christian  
Aid Week**  
13–19 May 07

Lord of compassion,  
We pray this week that you will broaden  
our perspective,  
Open our hearts,  
Give us a generous spirit,  
And make us long for change,  
So that together, we may stand alongside  
those who suffer the effects of our  
lifestyles  
And be united in our cry for justice.  
Amen.

## Services during the summer months

### *Morning Worship at 10.30 am*

John in his Gospel tells us about various encounters with Jesus. We'll be following in his footsteps each week. Pentecost is also celebrated in May and in June a Family service looking at Jesus and the Tree Climber.

Although the Sunday Cub takes a rest over the summer, a full programme for children is available each Sunday Morning. In August the Sunday Club restarts with a Family Service and the Lord's Supper is celebrated in June.

### **May 27 Pentecost**

"John's Gospel – Jesus and the dying friend"  
John 11: 1 – 16

### **June 3 Trinity Sunday**

"John's Gospel – Jesus and the grieving family"  
John 11: 17 – 37

### **June 17 Family Service**

### **June 24 The Lord's Supper**

"John's Gospel – Jesus at Bethany"  
John 12: 1 – 11

### **August 26 Family Service**

**Our Worship** seeks to be relevant and approachable and mixes the best of the old and the new in its use of hymns. There is a large Sunday Club for primary school children and a Focus Group for Secondary school age youngsters.

Our youth work is vibrant and growing and includes the **IMPACT** Youth Club, **N'gage** Group on Sunday nights and many other activities.

Please contact **Gordon McBirnie**. See the Youth Pages for all the news or log on to the website at [www.impactyouthclub.co.uk](http://www.impactyouthclub.co.uk)

We also have **uniformed organisations** for both boys and girls. For adults; we have **Home Groups** most nights of the week, with lively discussion, friendship and tea and coffee always to be found at any of them. Why not come along. We also have **The Guild**, open to both men and women.

## Minister's Letter

On the Day of Pentecost as the followers of Jesus were gathered together something wonderful and awesome happened to them that sent them tumbling out of the house where they were hiding and into



the streets. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit, like wildfire, spread through their ranks and they were filled with joy. Speaking all kinds of languages in the streets of Jerusalem. They then began to tell the crowds they met the Good News of Jesus.

Sometimes this event has been called the birth of the church. That would be a bit misleading as the church has no day of birth. Rather, the church came into being during those years when Jesus gathered around him a group of friends, the disciples, who, as they listened to him, as they followed him, as they experienced his influence at work in their lives began to be changed and to grow together.

There were high points and times when things went badly; think of the excitement surrounding the healing of men and women and the despair surrounding their denial of Christ prior to his death. Of course the crucifixion and the resurrection changed everything for them and the Holy Spirit filling them so clearly enabled them to witness for Christ but I think that the gradual growth of the church mirrors the experience of many who find that faith is discovering them.

For us the moment of belief is surrounded by high points and deep chasms, times when Jesus Christ felt close and at other times far away and occasions when we hear him speak and times when we close our ears. Indeed, most people find that faith has come upon them over a period of months or even years.

Perhaps you have visited church once or twice or even come along for a while but have stopped. You would not be alone in that. But allow me to invite you back again. Perhaps as we together seek to follow Jesus we will actually find strength, not so much from each other as from the Holy Spirit who unites and strengthens us in the faith of Christ.

This is the season of Pentecost, when we remember the day when He came to the young church and made possible the hearing of the Gospel. We need to rehear that voice and together be open to His call to us to follow Jesus Christ.

May you all know the blessing of God.

**Andrew Ritchie**

## **Bethany Christian Trust**

Three years ago, the Bethany Christian Trust asked the churches of Edinburgh for representatives to liaise with them. Since then, we at Craiglockhart Church have been able to extend our support both in very practical ways and in prayer. Our involvement takes place mainly in the autumn and winter months.

In September a group from the church joined in with the annual sponsored walk. We were lucky to have a beautiful warm day to walk the ten miles route through the Dalmeny Estate starting and ending at South Queensferry. Together the group of walkers raised £650.

The Caring Christmas Tree initiative was a great success again this year for Bethany with over £50,000 raised throughout Edinburgh for the Care Shelter. For the cost of one tree, the Care Shelter provides a homeless person with a hot meal, a bed for the night and breakfast. The Care Shelter operates for five months from November to March. It is only able to do this through the financial support from the sale of Christmas trees and catering support from local churches every night. This winter, three teams from Craiglockhart Church participated, setting up the hall and preparing a hot meal.

For everyone, especially for the first time, meeting and talking with homeless people is an experience that takes us into another world. It is both humbling and a great

privilege – both to be there and also to realise and reassess how fortunate we are. One 26 year old girl had become homeless upon losing her flat and it was sobering to think that she had no safety net, no family or friends to provide a base for her at a difficult time.

On behalf of Bethany, I want to thank everyone who helped over this last winter. It is heartening that more people volunteered than expected. Hopefully all will volunteer again next winter so we can provide even more catering groups.

I'd also like to thank everyone in the church and the parish for your generous support; for the sponsored walk and the retiring offering at the Watchnight Service on Christmas Eve. The Bethany Christian Trust, along with other Edinburgh charities, does such dedicated and extensive work with homeless people and your support in time, money and prayer is very valuable and much appreciated.

**Rosemary Swan**

## **The Guild Report**

The final meeting of our very successful session was the A.G.M. on Tuesday March 20th.



We have enjoyed some very happy evenings since Christmas. Our first was a Guild Own Hobbies night. This was followed by our annual mini Burns Supper. The proceeds of the Bring and Buy night in February went to the R.S.P.B.

The final total for our Autumn Fair last November is £1450. This has been distributed between our church, the two Guild projects for the year: The Lydia Project and the Leprosy Mission Scotland, the Youthwork based in the Church (The David Trust), the Rock Trust, who work

with young homeless people in Edinburgh and West Lothian and the Vine Trust. We are very grateful to everybody who supported these projects through this event. Thank you very much!

The last meeting of the Presbyterial Council was held at St. Georges West Church and took the form of a 'Songs of Praise'. Our next event will be followed by our summer outing on Tuesday May 15th. This year's trip will be to Dunfermline and all members and friends are invited to join us. Please call for information.

Once May is ended, we will not have any more Guild activities until the autumn, when our new session will begin on Tuesday 2nd October at 7.30pm. Next year is a very special year for our guild as we shall be celebrating our 75th Anniversary. Look out for lots of exciting events around this celebration later in the year.

We wish every one a very happy summer and look forward to seeing old and new members when we resume in October.

**Shirley-Ann Souter**  
**Guild President**  
**441 6422**

## **Comments please**

Over the past few editions of the Steeple, there have been some new and different features. The editor would be delighted to hear any comments regarding the Steeple particularly regarding some of these features.

Please also remember that the Steeple is available electronically as a pdf file for those who send it to friends and relations elsewhere. Please ask for details.

**Neil Main**

## A Sign of Completion

Many diaries and calendars will mark May 17 as Ascension Day. Forty days after Easter, it always falls on a Thursday. The Apostles' Creed affirms that following upon His Resurrection, Jesus *'ascended to heaven where He sits at the right hand of God the Father.'* To overlook the Ascension is like reading an exciting book and failing to read the last chapter!

The Ascension was an act of God's power and a further proclamation of Jesus' identity. Some who opposed His teaching and ministry chose to accuse Him of being an impostor. By raising Him from the dead, God the Father put the record straight and affirmed, *'This is my Son'*.

It was also a glorious sign of completion. When a new bridge or a major highway is completed, the appropriate authorities lay on a celebration. When building work is finished according to the contract, completion certificates are signed. God the Father's acceptance of His Son into glory decisively declared His acceptance of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. While the sacrifice itself took place on earth, His entrance into glory gave the clear message of its acceptance in heaven.

Two simple symbols are used: *'sitting'* and *'the right hand of God'*. Symbols are the nearest we can get to understanding truths beyond human comprehension until their reality is witnessed. In everyday life sitting often suggests completion. A busy mother's family may ask her, *'When are you going to sit down?'* Her answer may be, *'When I have finished what I need to do!'* Jesus' sitting signifies what is frequently described as His finished work. His atoning sacrifice was final, conclusive and for ever. His sitting declares the Father's complete satisfaction with what Jesus perfectly accomplished at Calvary.

Where Jesus sat down is as important as the fact that He did sit down: He sat down at the Father's right hand. An essential truth arises from this, identical to what was highlighted regarding the symbol of sitting. The right hand of God is the place of acceptance. Unless God had been satisfied with the work of atonement, there could have been no salvation.

Jesus' sitting at the right hand of God cannot be separated from the glorious prospect of His return. He sits because He waits; He rests until His enemies are subdued. While His sitting is a reminder that His coming again was not immediate upon His Ascension, it also keeps alive His people's hope and assurance for the future. The New Testament seldom speaks of the Ascension without an accompanying mention of 'the end' or the return of Jesus.

*'What do you think is going to happen in the next few years of history?'* C. S. Lewis was asked. His answer was interesting and appropriate: *'I have no way of knowing. My primary field is the past. I travel with my back to the engine, and that makes it difficult when you try to steer. The world might stop in ten minutes; meanwhile, we are to go on doing our duty. The great thing is to be found at one's post as a child of God, living each day as though it were our last, but planning as though our world might last a hundred years.'*

## Reduce Recycle Reuse

### Used stamps

The World Mission Department of The Church of Scotland (where I take our used stamps) say that almost £600 has been raised for orphanages in China! This appeal has been launched in association with Scottish Churches China Group and the Amity Foundation and has almost doubled the amount raised by this time last year. Donations of used postage



stamps are required throughout the year and until February 2008. The money raised from the sale of the stamps goes towards providing vital necessities such as food, blankets, crutches and wheelchairs, as well as personal development equipment such as play and sports kit to orphans in China. So please keep donating your used stamps to the box under the table at the North Aisle door. It is very much appreciated!

### ***Old and obsolete money***

Thank you for all the money left in the box on top of the table at the North Aisle door. It is much appreciated by the Marie Curie Cancer Charity. When you find coins at the back of a drawer, please remember to donate them to our box. Thank you.

### ***Old spectacles***

Many more thanks to everyone who brings their old spectacles to our box. Each pair of spectacles can help someone else to see well enough to be able to work. Also, the local prisoners who are training to be ophthalmic technicians are given valuable hands on experience by 'reading' the prescriptions of the spectacles and carrying out minor repairs if these prove necessary. Thank you to everyone who contributes to this worthwhile cause.

**Averil H. Hope-Smith**  
**0131 445 1274**

## **Youth Pages**

**Hungary Mission Trip**

**Fundraising Quiz Night**

**19th May at 7.30**

**Craiglockhart Parish Church**

As you may remember from our pages in the last Steeple a group of us from the youth group are going on a Mission Trip to Hungary in July.

As part of our preparation for this trip we are having a fundraiser on the 19th May. The fundraiser will take the form of a quiz night and we want to invite all of you to take part. The tickets will cost £5 each and you can either form a team of up to 5 people or just come along and we will fit you into a team.

While in Hungary we will be working with young people from all over Budapest at Scripture Union camps. These are day camps where each day's programme will consist of games, crafts, Bible teaching, learning English and much more.

While we are there we will have opportunities to talk to the young people about our faith and why we believe. Although many of the children come to the camps to improve their English, we hope to be able to talk to them about Jesus and we ask for your prayers in helping us share our faith.

### ***Parachute Jump***

One of our young people, James 'dangerous' Murphy recently did a parachute jump to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. James did the jump at Errol Airfield in Perthshire on Sunday 15th April.



We are delighted to say that the jump went well and James landed with no incidents and a great experience to share. In order to do the jump James had to pledge to raise over £400.

Thanks to the generosity of his sponsors from Craiglockhart Church, and other monies raised by James through his family and friends we are pleased to say that he raised in excess of £500. Thanks to all who have pledged for this worthwhile cause.



James coming in to land (safely!)

### ***New Impact Programme***

Our youth club, Impact, started again on the 19th of April and as usual the full details of the programme can be found on our website [www.impactyouthclub.co.uk](http://www.impactyouthclub.co.uk). Among our activities this session we have a cinema trip and an ice-cream sundae night.

'Edited' highlights of the IMPACT programme:

#### **17th May**

Ice Cream Sundae Night

#### **31st May**

Cinema Trip (Pirates of the Caribbean 3 comes out on the 25th May so this would be the perfect time to see this film.)

#### **28th June**

Last Impact before summer

### ***Teen Ranch***

Our Teen Ranch weekend this year is on the **1st – 3rd June**. All our pre-booked places went very quickly again last year, so if you want to come, make sure you are ready with your form (signed) and deposit.

Booking forms will be available on the 26th April at Impact or you can get one the following Sunday. We will begin taking bookings on the 10th May. The cost of the weekend this year is £73.

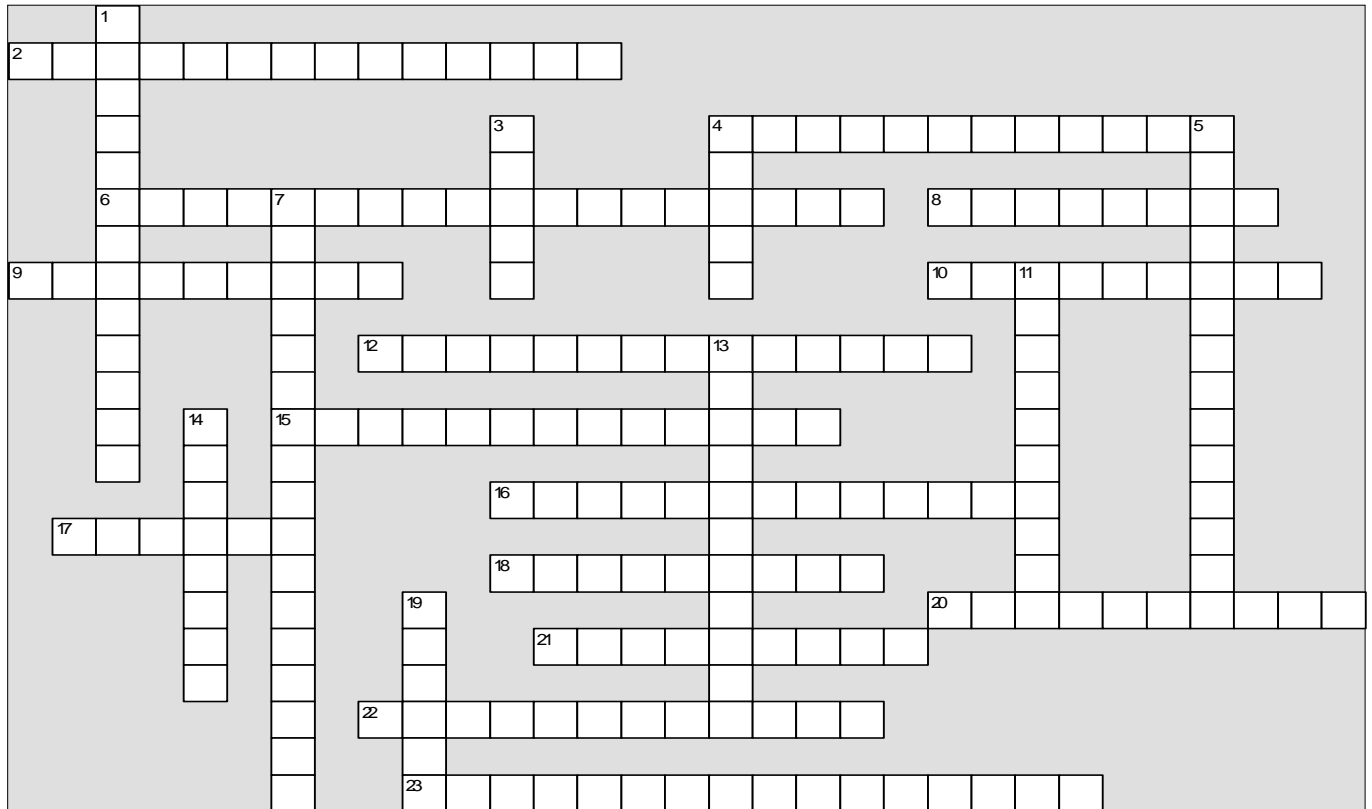
## **Prayers & Inspiration 2**

**Christian  
Aid Week**  
13–19 May 07

'Praying and expecting everything to come from God and not doing anything yourself is not praying. This is laziness; this is alienation. This is passivity, conformity. This is not the time, dear brothers and sisters to say: it is God's will. Many things happen that are not God's will. When people can contribute something of themselves to improve the situation and ask God for the courage to do so, then there is prayer.'

Oscar Romero, 1979

## Cross Word *Generous Giving* (Read 2 Corinthians 8 – 9 NIV)



Cross Word: by Brian Sloan

### Across

- 2 The reward for 'sowing generously' (4,10)
- 4 How Paul saw Titus (6,6)
- 6 As 21A
- 8 And 20A God gives you this to enable you to be generous (4,4,2,3,6)
- 9 See 4D
- 10 The reaction of other people to your giving (6,3)
- 12 See 23A
- 15 See 1D
- 16 God loves a ... (8,5)
- 17 Ancient name for the area in which Corinth stood (6)
- 18 Ancient name for the area of modern Greece where the churches were suffering (9)
- 20 See 8A
- 21 How the churches saw their opportunity to give (9)
- 22 What the Corinthians had promised (8,4)
- 23 And 12A Described in 9:9 (3,13,7,3,4)

### Down

- 1 And 15A Through giving God will enlarge this (7,2,4,13)
- 3 The person Paul sent to Corinth (5)
- 4 And 19D, 9A The churches excelled in these (5,6,9)
- 5 The spirit in which the churches gave (4,10)
- 7 What God has given to us (13,4)
- 11 Paul saw the churches giving as this (3,2,5)
- 13 Your expression of thanks to God may be this (11)
- 14 Part of the reason for generous giving (8)
- 19 See 4D

**Solution is to be found on Page 11**

Thanks to Christian Aid for the various images and photographs, Prayers & Inspiration articles and "Resisting the Hurricanes"

## Resisting the Hurricanes



Chus works with Christian Aid partner Aprodehni, putting down tyres and filling sandbags to strengthen the riverbank. This vital work helps the community to live with the effects of climate change.

*'We definitely have more hurricanes and floods than we used to. I've lived here all my life and it wasn't like this before. Strong winds and big waves from the sea cause more floods now.'* Dominica Echevarría

Jesús Antonio Echevarría, usually known as Chus, is 15 and lives with his sister Dominica and her husband in the San Luis la Herradura area of El Salvador. This area is particularly prone to natural disasters. Hurricanes are a growing threat, and the low-lying land is very susceptible to flooding.

Chus's father died when he was a baby and he sees his mother only occasionally. He has been brought up by his sister and her husband. The family live in three huts close together. Chus shares a hut with his brother and the family's livestock. Chus's hut was battered by Hurricane Stan in 2005, and this has left holes in the roof. The family survives on just a few dollars a day.

Chus likes to get involved with his community in a practical way, and has worked on the local river bank with Christian Aid partner Aprodehni. He has always wanted to do this, although he was initially told he was too young. However, his enthusiasm paid off and he was allowed to work, in return for some food.

He is seen in this picture strengthening the river bank with tyres and sandbags. In the aftermath of Hurricane Stan he helped to make up food parcels for other families.

Chus is not the only member of his family to be involved with Aprodehni. His sister and brother-in-law play an active part in analysing what needs to be done in the community, organising working groups, and carrying out practical work on the river bank and drainage channels. Even his seven-year-old cousin, Jackeline, participates in Aprodehni's workshops, which use sport and art to help children forget the trauma of hurricanes and earthquakes. She has also taken part in rubbish-collecting brigades.

Aprodehni encourages people to get involved in, and take responsibility for, protecting and developing their own communities. Its work includes reducing the risks created by natural disasters, reducing environmental pollution and responding to emergencies. The changing climate is creating a situation that calls for an urgent response. The increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes and subsequent flooding demonstrate the catastrophic effects that climate change is already having on some of the world's poorest people.

Archbishop Oscar Romero memorably referred to the 80 per cent of El Salvadoreans living in poverty as a 'crucified people'. Romero worked tirelessly on behalf of poor people, speaking out against injustice and oppression. This brought him into conflict with the government and the military. He was assassinated by the army in 1980.

Chus is just one of these 'crucified people'. Yet with the help of Aprodehni, he is helping to save lives. Although he is poor, he is helping people to adapt to climate change and to live with the effects of natural disasters.

A gift of just £6 to Christian Aid would enable Aprozehni to clean a well after a flood. However, your support will be giving so much more than this. You will also be paying for the education and training of the local community – people who can make an immediate difference, particularly young people like Chus.

Please help poor communities around the world grow a better future this Christian Aid Week. For more details, visit [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org)

**UK registered charity number 1105851**  
**Company number 5171525**

## New Members

Steven and Fiona Maxwell,  
36 St Clair Terrace

Fraser and Kathleen Ingram,  
76 Morningside Drive

## Prayers & Inspiration 3



**Christian  
Aid Week**  
13–19 May 07

Lord of Compassion  
We pray this week that you will broaden  
our perspective,  
Open our hearts,  
Give us a generous spirit,  
And make us long for change,  
So that together, we may stand alongside  
those who suffer the effects of our lifestyles  
And be united in our cry for Justice

Amen

Generous God,  
You give us gifts that are not ours by right.  
You give us life,

You give us freedom  
You give us our planet with its changing  
seasons and rhythms of nature, You give  
us the miracle of creation,  
And we have misused your gifts

We look at our world, overcrowded by the  
thorns of injustice  
And we are ashamed.

We look at the suffering caused by our  
actions  
And we pray for the will to change.

We look at the vast gap between rich and  
poor in our world  
And we pray to be shaken out of our  
apathy.

## Craiglockhart Community Council

All Change!

By the time you read this we will have a new City of Edinburgh Council elected by proportional representation. There will probably be a coalition and there may well also be many policy changes if Labour lose control over the main committees. Many older councillors are also retiring, including our long – standing councillor George Hunter. Many thanks to George, for all the things he has achieved for Craiglockhart and best wishes for your retirement.

We will also have a newly elected Scottish Parliament and there could be a lot of change there too.

The new Planning (Scotland) Act received Royal Assent just before Christmas. It is a radical overhaul of planning legislation which will affect all of us. A key part of the legislation is to devolve power to the people with the emphasis on community involvement at an early stage. We expect to be consulted and our views sought, making the process both more open and transparent. However whilst the process is meant to be quicker and more efficient it

also means that we could lose out. It will certainly mean more work for our Community Council and other groups in the community, such as the Church or the Woods Group etc, as they also now be involved in this process. This will all happen very soon, so look out for further information.

Another major change is the formation of Neighbourhood Partnerships. The Scottish Executive is keen to get Councils to consult with local communities about the provision of services and plans etc. Edinburgh has prepared a draft proposal and constitution for this.

Unfortunately we are included in a very large group comprising Sighthill Gorgie and Fountainbridge. We feel this is too big, with very different interests from the communities of Sighthill and Gorgie. Whilst we will try to make it work and get better services for our residents, it will almost certainly require more time and

commitment from Craiglockhart Community Council members.

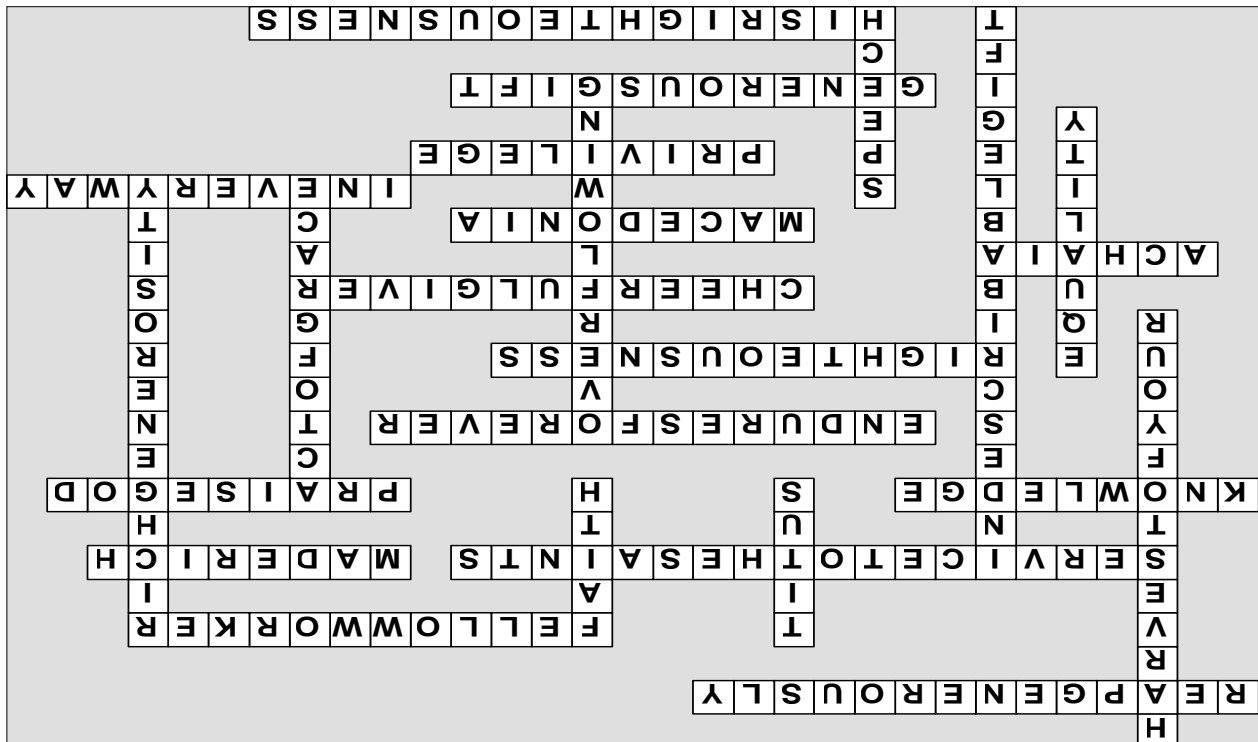
Our web address is also changing. We have been lucky to get [www.craiglockhart.org](http://www.craiglockhart.org) as our new address. It should be easy to remember and access. Do log on and visit our site!

With the new extended parking zones coming into effect in March, our stretch of Colinton Road has got even more congested. Further parking restrictions at our border with Polwarth will make it worse. Many cars are parked all day while their owners bus or walk or cycle into the controlled zones to work. It makes it much more difficult for residents to visit the doctor or the shops or even to park their own cars near their house.

**Tom Crombie**  
**Chairman 443 9034**  
[t.crombie@virgin.net](mailto:t.crombie@virgin.net)

**Website: [www.craiglockhart.org](http://www.craiglockhart.org)**

## Cross Word Solution



## Office Bearers

### ***Minister***

#### **Rev Dr Andrew Ritchie**

The Manse  
202 Colinton Road  
Edinburgh  
EH14 1BP

Tel: 0131 443 2020  
e-mail: andrewritchie@talk21.com

### ***Youth Worker***

#### **Gordon McBirnie**

50 Sighthill View  
Edinburgh  
EH11 4PT

Tel: 0131 455 8229  
0131 442 2878 / 07960 066580  
e-mail: gordon@craiglockhartchurch.org

### ***Session Clerk***

#### **Michael Livingston**

55 Craiglea Drive  
Edinburgh  
EH10 5PE

Tel: 0131 447 5820

### ***Clerk to the Congregational Board***

#### **Stuart Lauder**

30 Woodhall Bank  
Edinburgh  
EH13 0HJ

Tel: 0131 441 1017

### ***Congregational Treasurer***

#### **John Hume**

236 Colinton Road  
Edinburgh  
EH14 1DL

Tel: 0131 443 2503

### ***Organist and Choirmaster***

#### **Martyn Strachan**

61 Strathalmond Road  
Edinburgh  
EH4 8HP

Tel: 0131 339 3217

### ***Church Secretary***

#### **Rita Sinclair**

Craiglockhart Parish Church  
Craiglockhart Drive North  
Edinburgh  
EH14 1HS

Tel: 0131 455 8229 / 0131 443 3237  
e-mail: office@craiglockhartchurch.org

### ***Steeple Editor***

#### **Neil Main**

109 Bonaly Rise  
Edinburgh  
EH13 0QY

Tel: 0131 441 5277  
e-mail: neil.main@talk21.com