

The logo features a stylized white steeple with a cross on top, set against a blue background that resembles a church building. The text 'The Steeple' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font to the right of the logo.

The Steeple

Newsletter of Craiglockhart Parish Church

Christmas Services

For all our Christmas services this year you will need to book to join us.

You can do this by phoning Gordon Kennedy, 444 1615, or by emailing: gordonkennedy@craiglockhartchurch.org to book a place.

We will have Advent services on Sunday mornings, 29 Nov, 6, 13 and 20 Dec at 10.30am.



Christmas 2020

Minister's Letter

A Different Kind of Christmas

For most of us Christmas is one of the most traditional times of year. We do the same things each year and we look forward to Christmas just as it has always been. We go with the same friends to the Christmas ballet, pantomime or choral concert. We visit family, we share presents, we have the usual work's night out. In the church we have readings and carols which we don't share at other times and look forward to during Advent and Christmas.

But it will be different this year and we're not looking forward to that.

All the theatres are closed, work's night out has been cancelled, even our church services are affected because we can't share in singing our Christmas carols together.

Perhaps we've forgotten that the first Christmas wasn't traditional, it was very different from everything that went before. The Virgin Mary, most blessed of women, gave birth

to a son. Her son was worshipped by shepherds and wise men, hosts of angels filled the skies to announce his birth. It doesn't get more different than that!

Because Jesus has been born in a different kind of Christmas the truth is that every day since then has been different. In Jesus God has come to be with us, he has for ever united himself with our humanity in our lives, our joys and our sorrows. The different kind of Christmas God made for us in Jesus, means that today we have a different kind of life than we would have had without this wonderfully different Christmas.

As we celebrate our different kind of Christmas this year let's give thanks for our different kind of Saviour, Jesus, who loves us and will be with us in all the days of our Christmas this year.

May we all know the joy and peace of this blessed season this year,

Gordon Kennedy



Trinity Foodbank

Holy Trinity Wester Hailes Parish Church

We are still accepting donations for the Trinity food bank based at Holy Trinity Church.

This is a difficult time for families and food banks across the country are reporting that donations are down. So please think about buying a few extra non perishable goods next time you do your shopping and drop them off here at Craiglockhart Church and we will make sure they are delivered.



HOLYTRINITY

Foodbank

Every week, Holy Trinity opens our Foodbank to support those in our community who have the most need.

It is run predominantly by volunteers and donations.
This week we have given out:

- 100 Food Parcels to feed 47 adults and 38 children
- Nappies/ wipes/ Baby Essentials for 10 babies

With thanks to:

- 5 delivery volunteers
- 4 packing volunteers from Holy Trinity
- The many individuals and organisations who donate food to us

If you would like to donate to the Foodbank or volunteer we would love to hear from you!

Contact:

Angie Thomson,
Community Pastor
2 Hailesland Place,
Wester Hailes, EH14 2SL
Tel 0131 442 3304

Cereal

Soup

Pasta

Rice

***Tinned tomatoes/ pasta
sauce***

***Lentils, beans and
pulses***

Tinned meat

Tinned vegetables

Tea/coffee

Tinned fruit

Biscuits

UHT milk

Fruit juice

Chocolate

Selection boxes

Christmas Services and Events at Craiglockhart Parish Church

Sunday 6th December 10.30am

Sunday Morning Service/Gift Service

Each year we collect gifts on behalf of Edinburgh Prison to distribute to the children of prisoners.

If you would like to donate a gift please drop it off to the church on Friday 4th December between 10-11am or 2-3pm.

(Unwrapped gifts or gift tokens only thanks)



Thursday 10th December

7pm-8pm

Get yourself in the mood for Christmas by joining us for a fun Christmas quiz for all ages.

Music, pictures and trivia

Contact office@craiglockhartchurch.org for Zoom log in details.

Sunday 13th December 10.30am

Sunday Morning Service

Service of Lights 6.30pm

A reflective service with an opportunity to remember loved ones.

Each year we place tags on our tree with the names of loved ones who are no longer with us. If you would like a tag placed on the tree please email office@craiglockhartchurch.org

Saturday 19th December

10am-2pm

Christmas Story Family Treasure Hunt

 what3words



We will place some QR codes round Craiglockhart which will tell you the Christmas story. There will also be a letter with each part of the story. You will need to unscramble the letters to claim your treasure. (A selection box)

All you will need is a warm coat, the What Three Words App, a PDF reader App and an hour or so out of your day.

Once you have completed the treasure hunt come back to the church for your prize.

To get your instructions come to the church on the day, email gordon@craiglockhartchurch.org to get them sent to you or scan the QR code above. (The QR codes won't go up until 10am on the day)

If you would like to come along to one of our services we have a booking system in place as we are only permitted limited numbers at each service.

To book a place please phone our Minister Gordon Kennedy on 0131 444 1615 or email gordonkennedy@craiglockhartchurch.org

If you would like to watch our services via livestream on YouTube see below



Search [craiglockhartchurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/craiglockhartchurch)



www.facebook.com/craiglockhartchurch



[craiglockhart_parish_church](https://www.instagram.com/craiglockhart_parish_church)



[@CraiglockhartC](https://twitter.com/CraiglockhartC)

Sunday 20th December 10.30am

Family Christmas Service

If you have been on our Christmas Story Family Treasure Hunt you will recognise the word we will be thinking about through this service. But even if you haven't we would love to welcome you in person or via YouTube

Sunday 20th December 6.30pm

9 Lessons and Carols

It's going to look a bit different from usual but our choir has been working hard to bring this pre-recorded service to us. It will be released onto our YouTube channel at 6.30pm.

Thursday 24th December 6.30pm

Family Watchnight Service

Join us as we look at the Christmas story using our nearly famous knitted nativity set. Since we won't be able to do this in our usual way there will be cool sticker nativity set for you to complete during the service. See below for instructions on how to book but if you can't come email gordon@craiglockhartchurch.org and we will post one to you to complete while you join the service via YouTube



Thursday 24th December 11.15pm

A traditional and reflective late Watchnight Service that has become an important part of experiencing Christmas for many people.

We can attend this service in person or via the livestream on our YouTube channel. See below for instructions on how to book.

Friday 25th December 10.30am

Christmas Day Family Service

Join us on Christmas morning to share in the joy of the day. Children are invited to bring along a gift to show us



Sunday 27th December 10.30am

Sunday Morning with the Moderator

Rev Martin Fair, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland has prepared a special service for the first Sunday after Christmas. He has invited all Church of Scotland churches to log in to YouTube at 10.30 on the 27th December and share in this service with him.



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www.facebook.com/craiglockhartchurch



[craiglockhart_parish_church](https://www.instagram.com/craiglockhart_parish_church)



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Helping Hampers



Helping Hampers

Every year churches across Edinburgh deliver Christmas Hampers to refugees and asylum-seekers across the city. This year, this is being organised and coordinated by Central Church, Edinburgh City Mission, and a group of volunteers from a few different churches. Craiglockhart Church is supporting the initiative this year. Over 120 refugee families will each receive a Christmas Hamper that is paid for and delivered by local churches. It is a wonderful opportunity to put our faith into action, to welcome and care for the stranger in our midst. In addition to some goodies, the hampers contain basic items that the families need and appreciate during this time. However, whilst the hampers are incredibly useful, what matters more than the content of the hamper is the heart behind them. Receiving a gift at Christmas makes others feel cared for and loved and that is a message we would like to pass on to the refugee community through these hampers. Whilst this year the public health restrictions will make it more difficult for volunteers to spend time with the families the hampers are delivered to, we hope to be creative and still enable meaningful exchanges and new friendships to be built.

As a church community we have agreed to participate by sponsoring and delivering some hampers.

They hope to deliver around 200 hampers to refugees and asylum seekers and they have also added this information if the donations exceed the costs of the hampers.

Helping Hampers

Any additional raised funds will be placed in a Refugee/Asylum Seeker Hardship Fund managed by Edinburgh City Mission. Working closely with Council Support Workers, this fund has been able to help pay for utility payments, practical needs, and transportation costs (such as bus passes or train tickets to attend immigration appointments), and other essential expenses incurred by refugee, asylum seeker and other individuals or families without recourse to public funds

How it works:

- Each hamper for a family costs £50.
- Volunteers collect the hampers from Central Church, Tollcross in early December
- Families or individuals then deliver the hamper to a refugee family prior to Christmas. Contact details of the recipients and their address will be on each hamper
- Further practical details for safe delivery would be provided nearer the time



How can we get involved?

You can make a donation of any amount by.... We need to confirm details of how people give but can be by cheque, bank transfer to xxxxxxxxxxxx or in an offering at one of the Christmas

Words of the Year

It was announced in late November that for 2020 the editors of the Oxford English Dictionary are not having a word of the year, but a list of "Words of an Unprecedented Year". Words include bushfires, Covid-19, WFH (working from home), lockdown, circuit-breaker, support bubbles, keyworkers, furlough, Black Lives Matter and moonshot (creating a radical solution to a huge problem). In 2020 the word 'pandemic' has increased in use by more than 57,000%

Often people will choose for themselves a word for the year, a bit like a resolution for the new year. A word to give focus and shape to the coming months. I don't imagine any of the words on the list above would have been chosen at the start of 2020.

One of the new things we are trying in the congregation this Advent is a QR code trail around the parish. This will be happening on Saturday 19 December (more news of this to follow

soon). We are using an app called 'what3words' to direct us round the trail. The idea is that each 3 metre square in the world has been identified by a unique combination of three words.

Words are really important.

For the past 26 weeks in our Sunday services we've shared an alphabet of words to teach us about God. If you were asked for one word to describe God today, what word would you say? Today for you is God present, gracious, caring?

The season of Advent began on Sunday 29 November. Let's take a word for this Advent season, let's take the word Immanuel (God with us). Let's pray for one another each day in Advent that we will know Immanuel. Let's take some time each day to be in the presence of Immanuel. Advent is a time of expectation, let's expect Immanuel to be with us each new day.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We email residents about meetings and topics of particular interest. If you would like to be added to our mailing list or to raise anything else with us, please get in touch:

email **CraiglockhartCC@gmail.com**
or use the **Contact Us** form on our website

Your email address will not be used for any other purpose or passed on elsewhere.

Website: www.craiglockhart.org

CONTACT DETAILS FOR CRAIGLOCKHART PARISH CHURCH

MINISTER : Rev Gordon Kennedy, 20 Craiglockhart Quadrant, Edinburgh EH14 1HD
Tel 01314441615 email gordonkennedy@craiglockhartchurch.org

YOUTH WORKER : Gordon McBirnie, 61 Dolphin Gardens West, Currie EH14 5RJ
Tel 01314499720 email gordon@craiglockhartchurch.org

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