

# THE STEEPLE

Craiglockhart Church

August 2023



*Mission at work in Craiglockhart,  
our local community and our world*

 The  
Steeple

Newsletter of Craiglockhart Parish Church



## Mind Your Head



*whatever is true, whatever is noble,  
whatever is right, whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable,  
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy,  
think about such things.  
(Philippians 4:8)*

What we think is what we become.  
If I had thought more carefully about  
that sign which I clearly saw I would have  
avoided the low door. But I wasn't paying  
attention and so I hurt my head.

What do you think about? What kind of life  
do you want to live? Will you change what  
you think about and think about  
what is true and right and admirable? Will  
you think about Jesus and the grace-filled  
life he lived? Will you think about God, not  
as some distant rule-maker, but as a father  
who rushes towards you to love you?  
Mind Your Head! Be careful what you think  
about and how you think. Be transformed  
in your life by transforming how and what  
you think about. Mind Your Head.

**Gordon Kennedy, Minister**  
[www.craiglockhartchurch.org](http://www.craiglockhartchurch.org)

Follow Us    

“Mind Your Head”. The sign was clear, the  
black and yellow tape made it stand out. I  
was told about the sign, I noticed the sign,  
then I used my head and walloped right  
into the sign. Somewhat dazed I could hear  
the Hawick accent of Bill McLaren saying,  
“He’ll be alright, it’s only his head”.

Mind your head. Or perhaps, mind your  
thinking. What you think is really important.  
If you think negative and unpleasant  
thoughts your life will become filled with  
negativity and unpleasant things. Nearly  
2,000 years ago the apostle Paul wrote,

## Worship with us in different ways

Details of our regular Sunday services and various other worship groups we have across the week are set out in our **Weekly Newsletter** issued by email each week. If you want to receive our weekly newsletter simply enter your email address and hit the subscribe button on the home page of our Church website [www.craiglockhartchurch.org](http://www.craiglockhartchurch.org).

## Mission in our Community

4 churches working together – Craiglockhart,  
Polwarth, St Michaels and Barclay Viewforth

## All Aboard



On a sunny Sunday in June a group from  
Craiglockhart Church got on the All Aboard  
canal boat based at Polwarth Church. All of  
us are locals and have seen the boat on the  
canal but had no clue what the boat was all  
about. We heard how the partnership  
between Polwarth Church and the charity  
People Know How was established, how  
it works, what goes on and how the boat  
is serving our community and building  
Christian mission.

We were blown away with the story of  
how it all began. We heard that God’s  
providence was definitely at work in  
the evolution and development of this  
partnership but also that a huge effort  
was put in by a small group negotiating  
and laying sound plans with waterway

### Four Churches Joint Picnic Sunday 27th August from 12:30pm St Michael’s Church garden

Food Games and activities for all ages,  
BBQ and picnic with food provided.  
If you plan to attend please email  
[office@craiglockhartchurch.org](mailto:office@craiglockhartchurch.org)  
so we have an idea of numbers.

authorities, local councils, specialist  
architects and health and safety specialists.

People Know How support young people  
making the often difficult transition from  
primary to secondary schools and also  
provide support to whole families facing  
wider challenges. They do this by providing  
specialist social work, educational and  
counselling support in the safe, quiet,  
slow, calm environment that the canal sail  
provides. Moving slowly and quietly through  
nature, wildlife and the happy chatter of the  
canal walkers, rowers and cyclists provides  
an amazing sanctuary for people to open up,  
be listened to and given the support and  
guidance they need.

We are blessed with having this facility  
within our Church grouping and so grateful  
for the investment and commitment  
Polwarth Church have made.

As our 4 Churches grouping develops we at  
Craiglockhart will certainly take advantage  
of the opportunities to use the boat to  
provide a calm and amazing space for the  
outreach work we also do with local young  
people and also to join together with our  
fellow churches and make plans for our  
combined union.

Find out more about this wonderful venture  
<https://peopleknowhow.org/all-aboard/>

## Social life at Craiglockhart

### Impact for all P7s to S4s



Start Date - Thursday 14th September 7.30pm-9pm P7-S4 Impact is our weekly youth club for P7 to S4's. Impact is a laid back club with plenty of activities like football, basketball, table tennis, PS4 or you can just hang out with friends and chat. We don't have many organised activities, we mostly spend time with friends and hopefully make new friends. If you want to know more contact Gordon at [gordon@craiglockhartchurch.org](mailto:gordon@craiglockhartchurch.org) or turn up on the 14th September. The only thing we will need is for whoever looks after you to sign a couple of forms to say it's OK for you to come and we will ask you to read and sign our rules. Look forward to seeing you there.

### Craiglockhart Ladies Group

We begin the new session on Monday 11th September 2023 in Centenary Hall at 7.30 pm and will meet there on the second Monday of each month.

The committee has once again put together an interesting mix of talks and activities and we look forward to welcoming current, new and former members for some sociable winter evenings. There will be a Christmas meal on 11 December.

We intend to continue with our afternoon walks in Saughton Park on the fourth Monday of the month. Other locations are being considered if the cafe remains closed over the winter.

Membership is £15 for the year. For more details, please email [valerie.hume@mac.com](mailto:valerie.hume@mac.com).

### Music at Craiglockhart

#### Saturday September 9

At 7.30 in the Church Sanctuary

#### Blu Velvet Swing Jazz Band

Blu Velvet perform traditional and modern Jazz, Blues and Americana songs to a very high quality. They delve into the Great American Songbook and emerge with tasteful and lively modern arrangements. They cherry-pick the best songs from the greatest singers and songwriters such as Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone, Ray Charles, Caro Emerald, Adele, Cole Porter, Amy Winehouse, Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, Van Morrison, Fats Domino, Carly Simon, Aretha Franklin, Diane Birch and Emeli Sande.

The band is fronted by Carol Stirrat on vocals - her voice has delighted audiences with her Jazzy, Bluesy style and interpretations. Lively musical arrangements come from Piano/Keys, and the Blu Velvet 'swing' from Bass and Drums. The band also features the sublime Saxophone notes of ex BBC top-drawer Sax/Clarinet player, Kenny Thomson.

Tickets £10.00 - Tickets are now available from any Stewardship Team Members on Sunday mornings or reserve tickets by emailing [office@craiglockhart.org](mailto:office@craiglockhart.org).



### Friday October 6

#### Whist Drive - In the Large Hall - 2pm

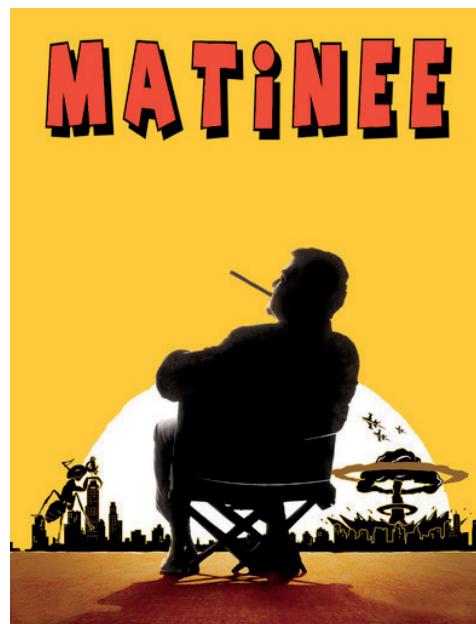
This is a fund raising afternoon. Entry will include tea and cream scones.



### Saturday November 11

#### Film Matinee in the Church Sanctuary 2pm - 5pm

Including refreshments after the film.



### Saturday December 9

#### Kirk Session Christmas Party

#### In the large hall - 2pm - 5pm

Invites will be issued nearer the time but anyone of any age is welcome to attend this happy occasion.



For any further information on any of the above events, please contact: Kath Grandison on **07870 193 721** or at [kathleengrandison@gmail.com](mailto:kathleengrandison@gmail.com)

Our mailing address is: [office@craiglockhartchurch.org](mailto:office@craiglockhartchurch.org).

### Wednesday Evening Badminton Club

The Badminton Club meets in the church hall on Wednesday evenings from 8pm to 10pm, for social badminton. Our start date for the new session is 20th September 2023 and new members will be made very welcome. For more information telephone Averil Sutherland **07720 049 705**.





## Dates for your diary

### Wednesday Café Church



Coffee With God is our mid-week worship service. Meeting once a month we worship God as we sing, pray, hear from the Bible, chat and meet with God. A relaxed format with coffee and pastries served from 7pm and we'll begin at 7.30. Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday 20 September

Wednesday 18 October

Wednesday 15 November

December To be confirmed

Wednesday 17 January

Wednesday 21 February

Wednesday 20 March

Wednesday 17 April

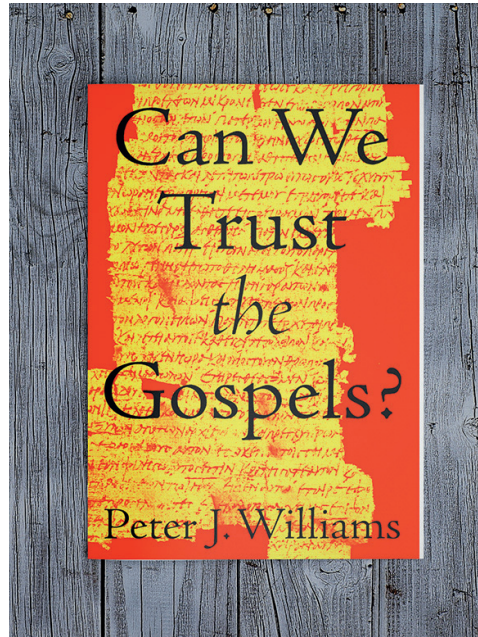
Wednesday 15 May

Wednesday 19 June

### Small Groups

There are various small House Groups that run regularly in Craiglockhart. At these we share together in fellowship and friendship as we look at a part of scripture together. Very informal with plenty time for tea and chat.

### Our regular book group



Our next book group is on Monday 28 August at 7.30pm to discuss Peter Williams's book "Can We Trust the Gospels?".

Pete Williams is the Warden of Tyndale House, an evangelical biblical study centre in Cambridge. ([www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk](http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk)).

In his short book Pete takes on the question about the trustworthiness of the four biblical Gospels. What is a Gospel?

What evidence do we have from non-Christian sources?

Has the text changed? From the depth of his scholarship Pete writes to give us confidence in the four biblical Gospels, that through them we do hear the words of Jesus. Everyone is welcome.

## Caring for our community and our world

### Eco group - A collective act of creative hope



We were delighted to support climate action by hosting an exhibition of some of the stitched panels from the Stitches for Survival collection. Find out more about Stitches for Survival at Stitches for Survival – Mass-craftivism to put the Earth centre-stage at COP26.

After church one Sunday we canvassed opinion on how people participated in environmental issues. We noted that nearly everyone is involved in recycling, some are members of local organisations such as 'Friends of Craiglockhart Hill' and 'Friends of the Pentlands' and others have installed solar panels or bought electric cars. Remember - walking trumps electric cars! We hope to share our experiences with each other and develop our expertise as we care for our world together.





## Caring for our community and our world

### Supporting healthcare and mission in East Africa

Chogoria is a general hospital run by the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. Situated on the southern slope of Mount Kenya three hours drive north of Nairobi. It's a beautiful place to visit with guest facilities. You will be made most welcome.

Chogoria is not a government hospital and has little public financial support. All its day to day costs are met by fees paid by patients and through the hospital's own fund raising efforts which just barely make ends meet. Despite that the hospital runs a College of Nursing and has specialist departments dealing HIV/AIDS (treating 1500 cases a month) and maternal and child health as well as all the normal general departments you would find in any major hospital.

#### What we're doing to help

We've been hosting Chogoria fund-raising lunches here at Craiglockhart Church since 1988 when we learned from our then Missionary Partner, working at Chogoria, about the hospital and its need for practical as well as prayerful support. 6 Chogoria Lunch events were run every year till the pandemic sadly stopped them.

#### Our support so far

Since we started around £100,000 has been raised and sent to Chogoria. Our lunches resumed this Spring raising £2,000 already with 6 further lunches over autumn and winter.

#### How Chogoria uses the funds we raise

None of the funds raised by Craiglockhart are used for running costs at the hospital where the administration are determined to be self-supporting. BUT the hospital cannot find the money for development projects or for specialised equipment.

#### This where our help makes such a difference.

Some of the projects we've supported include: Providing mosquito nets (malaria is a major killer), Mother & Child Clinic, the creation of a Renal Dialysis Unit, a Palliative Care Unit and an Intensive Care Unit.

### Save the Date



Next lunch, Sunday 8 October 2023 at 11.30 am after morning service. Everyone is welcome (not just Church members).

### Putting used stamps to good use



Last year Craiglockhart Church sent 7kg of used stamps to the Church of Scotland Stamps Appeal. That's a lot of stamps and it was much appreciated. This year's Appeal is for a project called "Firmly Planted" which is a community based agroforestry initiative in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Please continue to bring your used stamps for this worthy cause. They can be placed in the basket on the table at the north door of the Church or handed to Mary MacLeod at Church.

### Craiglockhart Tea Group

The Church Tea Group has been going for over 25 years. It was originally run by Oxfams Care, with the Church's help but some years ago they dropped out and we took the decision to carry on on our own. We meet on the last Wednesday of every month at 2pm, except December when we have a meal out.

As well as the afternoon tea we provide some form of entertainment from singers to quizzes.

The group is primarily for elderly persons who do not get out often or are lonely and would enjoy the company. All who attend are picked up by one of our volunteers and taken home afterwards.

As we rely on volunteers to run the group if you would like to volunteer and, in particular, if you can drive, then we would be pleased to hear from you. We also have spaces for more people to join us so if you know of anyone who may benefit from attending such a group then please contact us at: [office@craiglockhartchurch.org](mailto:office@craiglockhartchurch.org).



## Caring for our community and our world



### Guild mission – helping our community and wider world

The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement for women and men who encourage each other in their Christian faith, form friendships and enjoy fellowship with a lot of laughter and fun along the way. There are afternoon teas, an annual outing and Christmas lunch.

Guild members keep themselves informed about issues through invited speakers and chosen projects raising awareness of specific needs and raising much needed funds.

The Guild in Scotland has so far donated £249,382.56 to six projects they have been

supporting since June 2021, from Beat Scotland (to raise awareness of eating disorders) to the Vine Trust Kazunu Village of Hope in Tanzania. Chosen projects cover many different needy causes at home and abroad.

We raise funds through our annual subscription (£30 with year 1 free) and through our annual dedication service. We thank all of Scotland's Guild members, congregation members and friends who have helped us raise so much to help those in need.

Join us for any of our meetings (they are free to non-members) held at Craiglockhart Church in the Centenary Hall at 2pm. Here are the dates and the invited speakers.

### **2023**

#### **October 4th**

The Shetland Bus with Kath Hay

#### **October 18th**

Ordained Local Ministry with Rev Fiona Kennedy

#### **November 1st**

Project Home for Good – promoting fostering and adoption for vulnerable children in Scotland.

#### **November 15th**

Desert Island Discs with Shirley-Ann Souter

#### **December 6th**

Edinburgh Guilds Together at Slateford Longstone Church 2pm

### **2024**

#### **January 17th**

“New Wine, new skins” Rev Gordon Kennedy

#### **February 7th**

Tiphereth Charity with Gordon Hudson

#### **February 21st**

Cramond Island Trust with John Dods

#### **March 6th**

Travel with needle and thread with Margaret Boe

If you would like any further information contact

Norma Henderson [nclenorma@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nclenorma@yahoo.co.uk)

or

Liz McIntosh [elizabethamcintosh@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethamcintosh@gmail.com)

## Your Community Council

The Community Council Mela (Gala) Day held at Craiglockhart Church in June was very successful with many people coming along to enjoy the food and entertainment and to visit the many stalls manned by members of a variety of local groups and organisations. Pictures from the day can be found on our website.

For information on our area, local news and issues, public meetings and much more, see our website - <https://www.craiglockhart.org/> We have over 400 residents on our mailing list but we are always happy to add more. To join please send an email to [craiglockhartcc@gmail.com](mailto:craiglockhartcc@gmail.com) or use the Contact Us form on our website.



# Craiglockhart Community Council

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[www.craiglockhartchurch.org](http://www.craiglockhartchurch.org)