

THE STEEPLE

Craiglockhart Church

August 2026



What's Inside:

A message from our
Locum Minister

Our Christianity
Explored course

Lots more!

**The
Steeple**

Newsletter of Craiglockhart Parish Church

More than a Landmark



One of the privileges of being the Locum Minister is getting to know this part of Edinburgh. As I drive to Craiglockhart, its church steeple looms ahead of me, magnificent on the skyline. The poet Norman MacCaig wrote about another fine feature of this side of the city he loved in his poem, *Double Life*:

My Water of Leith runs through a double city;
My city is threaded by a complex stream.

Edinburgh is indeed a double city of Old Town and New Town. It is threaded by the complex stream of humanity we find in

Stevenson's *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, or Rankin's *Rebus*. But who cares about this double city?

One community that does is the one that gathers around the steeple. My greatest privilege as Locum Minister is getting to know the congregation of Craiglockhart Parish Church. I have discovered a place of thoughtful worship, love in action, and local hospitality.

The reason for this public-spirited community is not hard to find. It was well put by Craiglockhart's Minister in the Easter issue of *The Steeple*. We have found that Christ makes all things new – a new relationship with God and a new concern for God's world. If you long for such a relationship and share that concern, do get to know us this autumn at the steeple. It's more than a landmark. The Water of Life runs through it, threaded by a caring stream.

Will Storrar

(The Rev Dr Will Storrar is serving as Locum while our Minister is serving as Moderator).

Listen to our services – just head to our website www.craiglockhartchurch.org

All of our services are available via our website, www.craiglockhartchurch.org. On the home page you will find two buttons. The first button will take you to our YouTube channel where recent services can be viewed. If you would like to see any of our services from previous weeks please get in touch at office@craiglockhartchurch.org and we will be happy to send them to you.

The second button takes you to a website that hosts the audio of sermons from our services. You can listen on the site or download them, and the website provides a transcript. There is also a link to the bible passage which opens up at www.biblegateway.com.

We also have a growing archive of sermons from previous years which we are adding to all the time.

If you have any questions, please contact office@craiglockhartchurch.org.

WhatsApp Prayer Group



This group has been a source of much encouragement and sharing in the short time since it was launched.

If you would like to join the prayer group, please scan this QR code with your phone camera. A small yellow box will appear. Click on the box and you will be asked if you want to join the WhatsApp group. Click 'request to join' and one of the groups admins will admit you.

If you have any problems or just want to find out more about it, please contact tamzinmcbirnie@gmail.com or Gordon McBirnie.

Building up our finances for the future



Earlier this year we invited all the members of our congregation to review their giving, to enable us to build up our funds and so to continue and develop further the work of our church in the parish and beyond. We are very encouraged by the response so far, not only from members of our congregation but also from friends of Craiglockhart Church and others within the wider community.

We are very thankful for this generosity which helps to demonstrate the importance that people are placing on the work of the church in Craiglockhart, as well as our buildings and facilities which provide space for many local organisations and community groups.

We will continue to raise funds in a variety of ways over the coming months. If you would like to support the work and the facilities of Craiglockhart Church, you can donate by scanning the QR code which will take you to our secure contactless giving page through Give a Little. If you are eligible, choosing to add Gift Aid will increase the value of a donation at no extra cost.

For details of how to make a regular donation, and of the Gift Aid scheme, our Gift Aid Convener, John Hume (at john.hume@mac.com), will be very happy to help.

We will share news of events and progress with this campaign in the next edition of 'The Steeple'. In the meantime, with thanks for all contributions to the life and work of Craiglockhart Parish Church,

Gill Robinson
Session Clerk

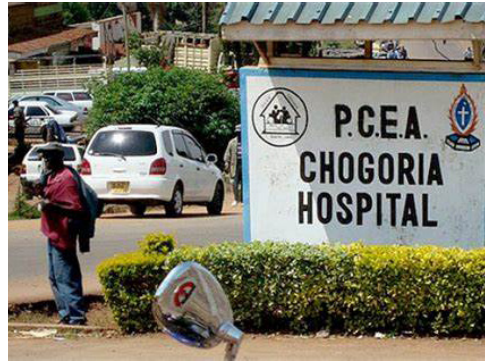
Weekly eNews

Subscribe to our Weekly eNews to see what's going on each week. Just add your email address to the subscribe button on our website Homepage.

Chogoria

The 2025/2026 series of Chogoria Lunches have been a great success, with generous donations enabling **£4,000** to be sent to the hospital in Kenya. This donation was used for the purchase of an ophthalmic operating microscope, allowing the visiting surgeon to carry out more cataract operations.

A further series of Chogoria Lunches are planned to be held this autumn and winter, with the first being on **Sunday 11 October**. Everyone will be very welcome at this and the following lunches, which will be on the second Sunday of each month until March 2027. Assistance with catering for these



lunches is always welcome, and anyone who has not previously been involved but is now willing to help should contact Ian MacLeod in person or on 441 1374.

Thank you for all your support so far for the amazing work of the hospital in Chogoria.

Every Stamp Makes a Difference

With summer now upon us, many of us will be receiving postcards from family and friends enjoying holidays both at home and abroad. When you have admired the beautiful pictures and read their messages, please remember to save the postage stamps.

Simply cut or tear the stamp from the envelope or postcard, leaving a small border of paper around it, and place it in the middle basket under the table by the north door of the church.

Although the Church of Scotland has now discontinued its Stamp Appeal Scheme, used stamps are still being collected in support of the RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People). The RNIB raises valuable funds from donated stamps to help support its work with people living with sight loss.

Thanks to the continued generosity of the congregation, a very large box of stamps was sent to the RNIB last month, and the donation was greatly appreciated. The RNIB has asked that, where possible, UK and overseas (foreign) stamps are separated before being donated, as this makes the sorting process much easier.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the appeal so faithfully over the years. Every stamp donated helps to raise funds for a very worthwhile cause, so please keep them coming!



What's happening at Craiglockhart

Save the date – bring Family and Friends, all very welcome



Welcome Space

Each Monday morning we serve tea, coffee and biscuits at our weekly Welcome Space. Folks just pop in to chat and relax. Its baby friendly (toys provided) and dog friendly (treats provided).



It's a great way to find out about what's going on in the Church and around Craiglockhart generally or just simply to enjoy the chat and a cuppa.

Our Welcome Space will re-start on **Monday 17** August and run each Monday from 10am until noon.

Everyone is very welcome



You're Invited to Our Jigsaw Group

Looking for a relaxed way to spend a Thursday afternoon?

Come along to our Jigsaw Group!

Whether you're an experienced jigsaw enthusiast or simply enjoy good company, you'll find a warm welcome. Join us as we work together on jigsaws, enjoy plenty of conversation, and share tea, coffee and refreshments in a friendly, informal setting.

Every Thursday

Starting Thursday 13 August

2:00-4:00pm – Craiglockhart Church

Come every week or just whenever you can – everyone is welcome.

We'd love to see you there!



Badminton Club



New session starts on **Wednesday 23rd September 2026**. We meet in the church hall on **Wednesday evenings from 8pm to 10pm**, for fun, relaxed, social badminton, and new members will be made very welcome. For more information telephone Averil Sutherland (07720 049 705).

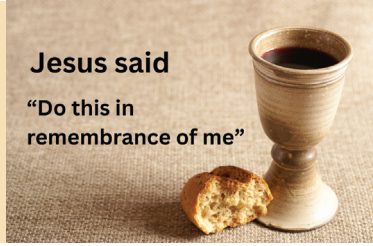
Communion Services

The dates of our Communion services are-

27 September
22 November

Jesus said

“Do this in remembrance of me”



Craiglockhart Church Guild

It's been a real treat to see so many friends, old and new, enjoy our Summer Afternoon Teas. Laughter and chat, tea and sweet treats, have all been in abundance and now we look forward to our regular meetings starting in October. We will meet in Centenary Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 2:00pm-4:00pm. See our programme below and please join us for all the meetings, or those topics which interest you most. Whether you are a regular or it is your first time, you will be most welcome.

- 7th Oct** **Blood Bikes**
- 21st Oct** **Death of St Kilda - Kath Hay**
- 4th Nov** **Playful Beginnings - Our Project with Crossreach**
- 18th Nov** **Wish You Were Here - Jackie Sangster**
- 2nd Dec** **Christmas 'At Home'**
- 16th Dec** **Christmas Lunch - Baberton Golf Club**

Our Guild Dedication Service is on Sunday 11th October at Craiglockhart Parish Church at 10:30.



Produce Stall

Sunday 6th September -

after the service in the large hall

We are looking for the usual donations of home baking, tablet, fudge, lemon curd, marmalade and jams. The latter sell very well! Please hand donations into the hall before the service but be sure to come for coffee afterwards to make your purchases.



Whist Drive

**Friday 16th October
2pm in the Large Hall**

Cost - £5.00 which includes tea/coffee and cream scones

This event is just for fun and doesn't require any real card skills. Just come along to enjoy an afternoon with friends!

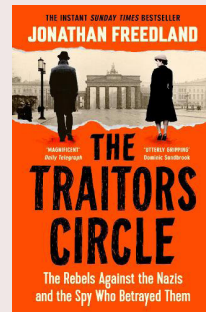
Card tables and packs of cards will be provided. We need to know numbers by the week before so get your name down now!

Please sign up on the list on the Stewardship Notice Board or message kathleen-grandison@gmail.com to reserve a place. No tickets will be issued and money will be taken on the day.



Book Group

You're Invited to Our Book Group



Join us for an enjoyable evening of conversation as we discuss **The Traitor's Circle** by Jonathan Freedland.

Whether you've read every page or are just curious about the book, you'll be very welcome. It's a great opportunity to share ideas, listen to others, and enjoy good company in a relaxed setting.

**Monday 7 September
7.30-9.00pm**

Craiglockhart Church

Tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided.

Come along!



Music at Craiglockhart

**Saturday
3rd October – 7:30pm
in the
Church Sanctuary**

THE SORRIES are Douglas Kay (vocals, guitar, bodhran, mandolin) and Martin Philip (vocals, guitar, bodhran, tres). The duo sing, play and banter their way through a show which features a host of traditional tunes from the much-loved Scottish songbook, as well as some songs gathered from the oral tradition and a few original compositions.

The two formed The Sorries following a conversation during a tour of the Highlands where both Martin and Douglas were performing as part of separate projects. Coming from very different musical backgrounds, Kay and Philip discovered a shared love for the music of The Corries. Over a bottle of whisky they decided that the duo is still an ideal format in which to present so many of the sensational folk songs in which Scotland is so rich.

Tickets priced £12.00 will be available nearer the time but save the date for another great evening of music in the church sanctuary

For further details about any of the events contact kathleengrandison@gmail.com or call: 07870193721



Christianity Explored

You're Invited to Christianity Explored

Have you ever wondered what Christianity is really about? Whether you're curious, have questions, or simply want to explore the life and teaching of Jesus, you're warmly invited to join our Christianity Explored course.

Christianity Explored is a relaxed, informal course where you can investigate the Christian faith, ask any question, and discuss life's big issues in a friendly, welcoming environment. No prior knowledge is needed, and there's no pressure or expectation—just an opportunity to explore at your own pace.

The course runs over seven weeks, but don't worry if you can't make every session. Come along whenever you can—you'll be very welcome.

We begin on Wednesday 9 September at 7.30pm at Craiglockhart Church.

Each session lasts around an hour and includes a short film followed by an informal discussion, where you're free to ask questions or simply listen. And, of course, there will be plenty of tea and coffee!

To find out more, or to let us know you'd like to come along, contact Gordon at gordon@craiglockhartchurch.org. You're also very welcome to just turn up on the night.



Craiglockhart Ladies Group

The group resumes for the 2026-2027 session on **Monday 14th September** with a Welcome Evening. We meet every **2nd Monday at 7.30pm** at the Church in Centenary Hall and **4th Mondays** of the month in the afternoon at an outside venue. There will be a variety of speakers, activities, and visits, and we also enjoy tea, coffee, and chat. Come along to find out what is on this year's syllabus.

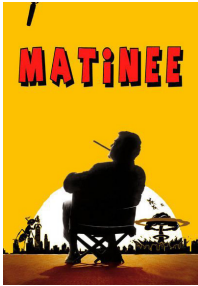
We welcome back our current members, but as usual, new faces are always welcome. Come and catch up with "old" friends and meet some new ones too. All ladies from Craiglockhart and beyond are invited.

For further details contact Mary Livingston
0131 447 2590



Christian Aid Week A Big Thank You!

Thank you to all who contributed to our annual Christian Aid Week Appeal. Over the past few years, we have used 'Delivery Only Envelopes' and kindly ask that they are returned to our Church. These envelopes also give details of various ways to donate and we thank you for every donation. The amount raised from the envelopes returned to us was **£1713** to which Gift Aid will be added.



Film Showing

Saturday 7th November, 2pm – 5pm, in the Church Sanctuary

We'll be watching *Matinee* (1993) and will have some refreshments together after the film.
Look out for more details closer to the time.

New Church Administrator

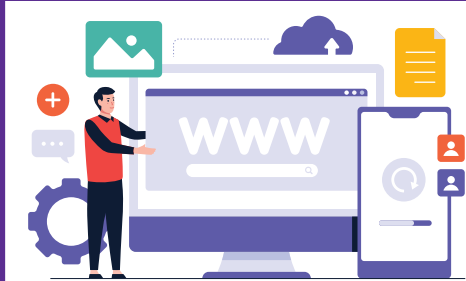
We are delighted to welcome our new Church Administrator, Micaela Al-Khirsan, to Craiglockhart. Micaela has worked previously with Bethany Christian Trust and Waverley Care. Micaela can be contacted on office@craiglockhartchurch.org and will be available in the church office on Mondays and Fridays between 9am and 3pm.

Micaela is taking over from Sheena Cowan who has served voluntarily as our administrator for more than four years. We are deeply grateful to Sheena for being so



willing to bring her time, energy and skills to this role and for the many ways that her service has supported the life and work of the church.

New Church Website



We are in the early stages of developing a new website for our church. If you would like to be involved in shaping it, we'd love to hear from you. We're looking for people to join a small group to help with ideas and suggestions, writing content, testing the website, and providing feedback throughout the development process.

If you're interested, please contact: office@craiglockhartchurch.org



Informal Bible Study BE ENCOURAGED

You are invited to join us on a Thursday morning 10.30 to 11.30 to read and discuss God's word and its relevance for us today. We don't have all the answers but learn much from listening to each other with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Here are the dates and passages we will look at. We look forward to welcoming you.

2026

Date	Passage	Title
10th Sept	Ephesians - Chapter 1	Spiritual blessings
24th Sept	Chapter 2	Oneness in Christ
8th Oct	Chapter 3	God's secret plan
22nd Oct	Chapter 4	Unity in Christ
12th Nov	Chapter 5	Living in the light
26th Nov	Chapter 6	Strong in the Lord
10th Dec	Luke 1 v26 – 56	Listen to God's voice and obey

2027

Date	Passage	Title
14th Jan	Habakkuk 1 v1 – 11	God does too little
28th Jan	Habakkuk 1 v12 – 17 + Chapter 2	God does too much
11th Feb	Chapter 3	Praise be to God
25th Feb	2nd Timothy 1+2 to v 13	Be faithful
11th Mar	2 v 14 -26	Consecrated for God
8th April	Chapter 3	Preparing for Christ
22nd April	Chapter 4	A story to tell
13th May	Thessalonians 1+2 to v16	Approved by God
27th May	2 v 17 to 3 to v13	Encourage one another
10th June	Chapter 4	Called to holiness
24th June	Chapter 5	Rejoice always

Keep up with what's going on at Craiglockhart

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/craiglockhartchurch>

Instagram: @craiglockhart_parish_church

Go to YouTube and search for Craiglockhart Church



**For all enquiries to the Church or Minister please contact
office@craiglockhartchurch.org or call 0131 455 8229**