

In the recent Olympic Games and presently in the Paralympic Games we see expressions of confidence. Highly trained and skilled athletes are interviewed before their events, and they speak of their confidence in their abilities. They know what they can do, and they expect to do it.

It might be a Scottish thing, it's certainly a Scottish Christian thing, we're not overly confident. If we seek to find confidence in ourselves and our ability to live Christian lives we may be right to lack confidence. However, there is a confidence we should have as Christians.

In our service yesterday we read this verse from Hebrews,

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

With a bold assurance and confidence, we can come close to the presence of our God, into the throne room of the Heavenly King. This confidence does not grow from our skills or our abilities, but from the priestly services of Jesus our High Priest.

Jesus is right now in the presence of God. Jesus is there on our behalf, holding out his nail scarred hands before the Father. We are confident that we will receive mercy from God and experience his grace because of who Jesus is and the sacrifice Jesus has offered.

Today Jesus doesn't invite us to hold back or hesitantly shuffle before God. No! Jesus calls our name, ushers us into God's presence, in him we can stand before our God.

Today, be bold, be confident, through Jesus our Saviour come, let us stand in the presence of our God.

Sunday Services

Please join us for our Sunday service. We are using 32 chairs at the front and all the pews in our sanctuary. Being able to sing together and have our choir share in our services are a blessing to us all.

Face coverings and the track and trace system will continue to be in use for the foreseeable future. Booking to attend services is no longer required, however, if you want to book to come to our services on Sundays, please phone 07856 923 681. If you haven't booked please do come on Sundays and we can take your contact details when you arrive for the service.

It is important that if you have been at church on Sunday and have a positive test you let us know about this.

We will continue with the use of hand sanitiser and will continue to do everything we can to welcome you all to our services safely.

We will continue to broadcast a service at 10.30am on Sundays which will be on our YouTube channel,

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRBBa9pHWuZsfhPFPwUrE4g>

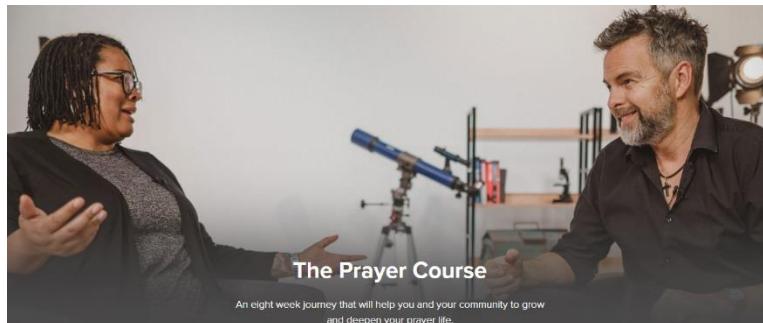
Presbytery Planning

At the General Assembly in May the Church agreed to a radical reduction in number of ministry posts, about 40% across the Church of Scotland. This will be managed by a process known as Presbytery Planning.

Each Presbytery is required to produce a plan for the arrangement of congregations, buildings and ministries, which will achieve this 40% reduction by the end of 2025, that is just over three years from now.

In the next week or so the Presbytery of Edinburgh will send out its draft plan to members of Presbytery for discussion at the meeting of the Presbytery on 14 September. We know that the ministry numbers for the Presbytery of Edinburgh will reduce from 78 to 48, and we have been told to expect that every congregation in the Presbytery will be affected by change in this Presbytery plan.

Please pray for the members of the Presbytery receiving this draft plan and discussing this on the 14th of September. Pray for our elders meeting on the 21st of September at which meeting we will be discussing the draft plan.



The Prayer Course

The prayer course is an eight week journey in prayer. With a film each week of a conversation between Poppy Williams and Pete Greig, this course will encourage our praying.

The films are about 20 minutes each and will be followed by a discussion and a time to put what we have been learning about prayer into practice. We are starting on Wednesday 25th August at 7.30pm. The course will take place over Zoom and each session will last about 1 hour including watching the excellent Prayer Course videos. If you want to know more email

office@craiglockhartchurch.org

The zoom link for The Prayer Course will be:

Topic: The Prayer Course

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83514864269?pwd=QUZRNGFmb2ZISnYwZDJUa2xDb3pKZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 1486 4269

Passcode: 529239



Yellow Canaries

We would like to create a flock of yellow canaries to decorate the gates, fences and trees of our church grounds. We hope this will remind all those who see them of the climate crisis and the need to engage with the COP26 summit.

There are patterns to make yellow canaries

knitting

<https://craftivist-collective.com/blog/2021/06/canary-knitting-pattern/>

crochet

<https://craftivist-collective.com/blog/2021/06/canary-craftivists-crochet-bird-pattern-by-dippycatcrochet/>

felt

<https://craftivist-collective.com/blog/2021/06/free-felt-canary-pattern/>

If you can't access the internet but would like a copy of one or all of these patterns, please phone Gordon Kennedy, 0131 444 1615.

Please join us to make a flock of yellow canaries for our church grounds.

Book Group

For our summer reading before our meeting in September our book group is reading: John Eldredge, "All Things New" and Tod Bolsinger, "Canoeing The Mountains". You can get copies of these books at the Faith Mission Bookshop or from an online bookseller.

Thank you for reading this email, and please do pass it on to others who may find it interesting,
Yours,

Gordon Kennedy