



CORSTORPHINE CRAIGSBANK PARISH CHURCH

AND

EAST CRAIGS CHURCH CENTRE EDINBURGH

where **Life** is celebrated, **Love** is affirmed, and **Grief** and **Joy** are shared.

Open the door to thought and prayer.

Minister to the needs of the Parish and fly the flag within the wider community.

Inspire through the Word of God.

Offer Christian fellowship in an age of hope and change.



Introduction

Now is a good time to arrive...

Following a settled period of ministry, under the care of the Rev Stewart McPherson, the warm, welcoming and forward looking congregation of Craigsbank Church and East Craigs Church Centre now seeks to appoint a new minister to our Parish. We look forward to building anew, learning afresh and facing the future together with hope.

*One Church,
two church centres,
where all are welcome
– no exception*



Who are we looking for? Well... you!

If we were to list the attributes of the new minister we hope to attract then they would include:

- The ability to draw in a younger congregation while supporting those who have been faithful to Craigsbank all of their lives;
- An open and listening approach to sharing the Gospel in the Parish;
- A love of music and the desire to see it used further in worship and fellowship;
- The style to communicate with all ages – to be inclusive and really mean 'all are welcome in this place';
- A strong preacher who relates God's word to the world we live in;
- Someone who is approachable and a good listener, organized and adaptable;
- A motivational team member;
- With life experience that lends itself to the changing church and can see a way forward;
- And an awareness of developments in technology in line with the digital age.

The Kirk Session has decided to depart from the historic and current practice in order for the congregation to consider applicants who are in a civil or a same sex marriage.

Who are we?

We are a friendly bunch – active, welcoming and forward-looking

We want to grow our congregation, support existing members and reach out with the Gospel to the wider community, working closely with the other churches of Corstorphine. We are willing and keen to engage with our neighbours.

This is the journey we invite our new minister to take with us.



Overview of the congregation

Together Craigsbank Church and East Craigs Church Centre form one of the larger congregations in the west Edinburgh area.

We have a confirmed membership roll of 410 members and eight adherents (August 2018).

Between the two centres, around 120- 150 people attend regular worship – one Church, two church centres.

The congregation has a healthy spiritual life and has appreciated the care of Stewart McPherson over the past 15 years. The members of the congregation are active and adaptable and always willing to try new things. In recent years they have been introduced to The Well, Taizé services, informal communion, film nights, discussion nights, invited speakers, Elders' away days and training. We have a strong core of willing people who have an interesting mix of skills and who are generous with their time and talents. Together the attenders at both centres form a strong, united faith community.

But like many churches the congregation tends towards older rather than younger. And like all churches we want to reverse this. We have a spread of ages with significant gaps, a Sunday morning group for children, a small evening Youth Group, and the full spread of uniformed organisations. We have few attenders in their 30s and 40s and we are aware that a high percentage of attenders are 65+.

A place in and for the community

The two centres are off the main thoroughfare and we have to work hard to remain visible. But we are both willing and keen to do this.

Overall, this is a friendly, welcoming, enthusiastic and positive congregation, always open to trying new ways of worship and looking for opportunities to grow and develop. But we are realistic too and know that the environment for the Church of Scotland is not as healthy as it once was.





The Parish

Corstorphine Craigsbank Parish is situated on the western perimeter of the city of Edinburgh covering some two square miles. It extends from Drum Brae in the east, Glasgow Road to the south and farmland and parts of Edinburgh Airport to the north and west.

The area consists primarily of residential housing with two schools – Craigmount High School (1268 pupils) and East Craigs Primary School (400 pupils). There are local shopping centres and sports facilities nearby. It is a desirable and popular place to live and bring up families and is attracting a younger demographic as housing becomes available.

New housing continues to be built within the parish boundaries (with planning permission granted which will see new building taking up much of the remaining farmland), the population of which is estimated to be around 10,000 from about 4000 households.

[More info here](#)

Socio-economic profile

In the latest index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) this area was ranked 6,429 out of 6,505 in Scotland, where 1 was the most deprived and 6,505 the least. There are however small pockets of deprivation in the East Craigs

area. The entire area has better than average rates of employment, housing, health, crime and education, skills and training when compared with the rest of Scotland.

[More info here](#)



The history of the church

'A striking, innovative and unique later 20th century design... its enclosed form and sunken nave inspired by the conventicle church and hillside hollows used by the Covenanters in the 17th century.'

The parish of Corstorphine Craigsbank was established in 1937, in a then (as now) rapidly developing area of Edinburgh.

A hall-church was erected at that time and the present church followed in 1966 (building work having been halted during the war years). The interior of the church owes its style to 'the church on the hillside' – the old Covenanting Conventicle – and was regarded as a highly original concept. The great feature is its openness and its focus on the pulpit at its centre. On the back wall we have a large triptych depicting the history and projected future of the church, a much-loved talking point for attenders.

The buildings at Craigsbank have been adapted to allow for less-able visitors, although the number of steps within the sanctuary is limiting flexible use of the space.

In November 2002 Craigsbank Church, including its Halls, was recognised by Historic Scotland as a **"A building of special architectural and historic interest and listed Category A"** and welcomes many visitors on Doors Open Day.

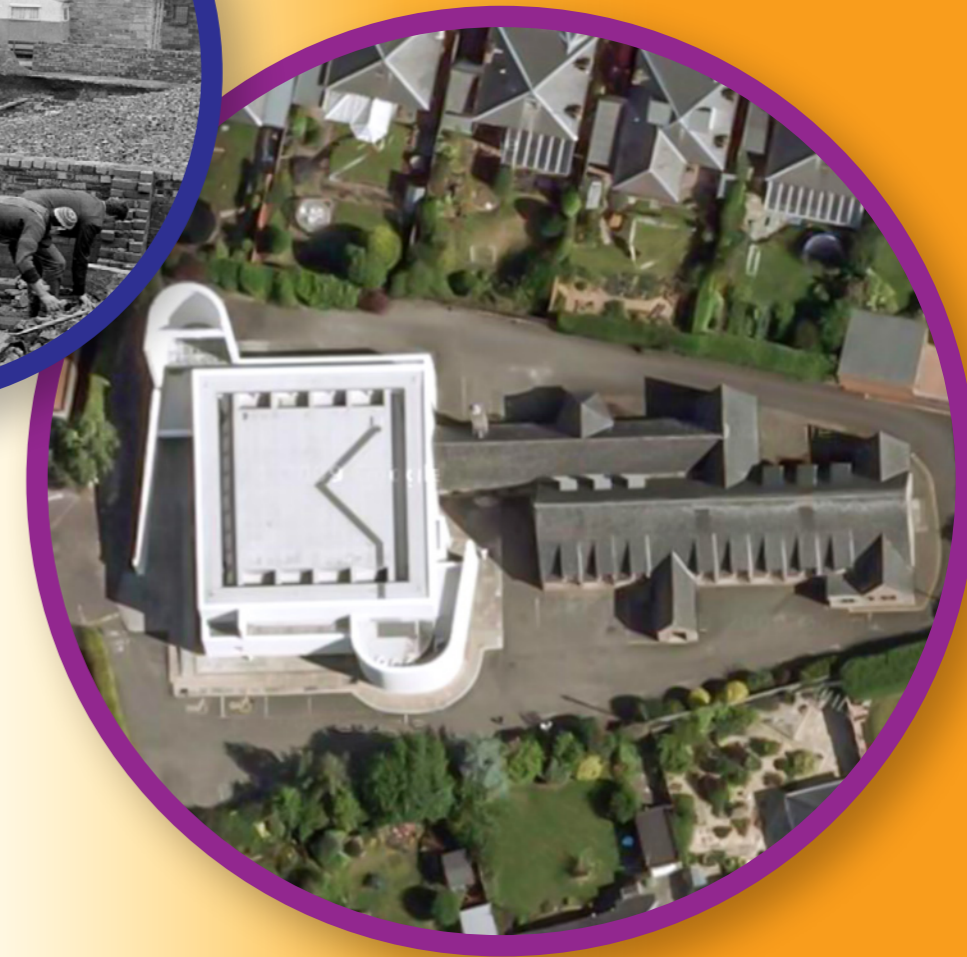
East Craigs Church Centre was established in 1984 to cater for the expansion of residential housing in the wider parish. In 2015-7 the area immediately surrounding the centre was repurposed introducing new housing and a new parking area for the centre.

The two centres offer the congregation choice in place, timings and style of worship.

The main sanctuary and halls at Craigsbank and the Halls and surrounding area at East Craigs have all recently been upgraded (including the roof at Craigsbank). The congregation would like to adapt the sanctuary at Craigsbank further to give full access and allow for more flexible use. Further upgrade to the fabric of East Craigs Church Centre is anticipated within ten years.

During all of these years there have only been four ministers, each inspirational in his own way:

Rev Graham Little, 1937-51;
Rev James Donald, 1951-71;
Rev George Grubb, 1971-2001;
Rev Stewart McPherson, 2003-2018





Worship

Sunday services are held as undernoted:

- East Craigs 9.30 am
- Craigsbank 11.00 am

In recent years, the two services have been combined during the month of July and on appropriate Sundays during the year. This has offered greater interaction between attenders at the two centres, allowing for greater fellowship outwith worship.

Holy Communion is celebrated at both Craigsbank and East Craigs four times a year – at both locations on Easter Sunday (although this has been combined in the last two years, preceded by a breakfast) and at Craigsbank on the first Sunday in February, June and October. At East Craigs Church Centre the celebration takes place on the second Sunday in February, June and October.

In recent years new Communion styles and worship variations have been trialled to suit different occasions - with great success. Children and young people are always welcome to take part in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

'have a google at Craigsbank Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, it's a white beauty' @CoastModernFilm

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is at the heart of the work undertaken in Craigsbank Parish. The Minister, supported by Elders and District Visitors, offer regular Pastoral Care to all church members – especially at times of vulnerability. Church members feeling lonely or isolated can reach out for the company of a Church Visitor (church members who can offer friendship and extra support) matched by referral to the Pastoral Care team.



Church members moving to a care setting are not forgotten. Visits continue as appropriate and cards of celebration are sent or delivered throughout the year.

'the regular cards and occasional visits from Craigsbank were appreciated by the family even when mum's dementia meant that she could no longer take pleasure in them herself. It meant a great deal to know that she had not been forgotten'

Education

'the children run through the corridor to the hall to see what the leaders have ready for them that day in Sunday School'



We have a pro-active, dedicated team of leaders for our young people and an energetic, popular and widely appreciated and respected Children and Family worker, Lesley Lawrie (noting that funding for this post is due for review). Although registered numbers at 'Sunday School' are around 19, numbers attending are nearer 6 or 7 at Craigsbank and 1 at East Craigs on a typical Sunday.

However, those who attend do so regularly and with great enjoyment.

Stepping Stones, pre-school to primary 7, runs every Sunday during the school term: 9.30am East Craigs and 11.00am Craigsbank.

Lesley Lawrie also runs Messy Church for children up to age 11 on occasional Saturdays throughout the year with songs, crafts, games and a hot meal. And the Imagination Tree, for children from birth to four years, every Wednesday morning.

Youth Group

We have an active Youth Group on alternate Sunday evenings during term time (S1-S6), 6.30pm – 8.00pm, Craigsbank Church Halls.

We also have an Adult Education Team who support the minister in planning and organising a range of events which aim to offer the opportunity for people to consider various aspects of faith in a wider context than weekly worship.

Uniformed Organisations

The Boys' Brigade

There is a strong history of the Boys Brigade at Craigsbank and East Craigs. At present the Company is undergoing a period

of change but we have a vibrant and energetic Anchor and Junior Section who meet jointly at East Craigs Church Centre. Details and updates on Company Section available online.

Scouts

The 16th Craigalmond (East Craigs) Scout group currently has 64 members, aged 6-14. And the 26th Craigalmond (Craigsbank), 54 members across the same age range. Scouting is open to girls as well as boys and currently there are 4 girls within the East Craigs group.

Girlguiding

Our Rainbow, Brownies and Guides sections at Craigsbank and East Craigs, together with St Thomas's, form Maybury district.

[More info here](#)



Scouts





Health of the congregation

The average age of the congregation is higher than we would have hoped to report. New members have joined over the last few years but many are at 50+. The younger members of the congregation are lively and involved and we cherish their input. The congregational role stands at 410 (April 2018) with eight adherents.

On any Sunday morning, East Craigs attracts around 50-60 attenders and Craigsbank 70-110. For seasonal services the numbers are double that and at Christmas the sanctuary at Craigsbank is full for Christingle and well attended for Watch-night although numbers have fallen for the latter over the last two years as regular attenders become less confident going out late at night during the winter months.

Kirk Session and leadership

- 31 Elders are on the Kirk Session. 19 Female, 12 male
- Three new elders were ordained in 2016
- We have two Session Clerks who are both female
- We also have a roll keeper

Our congregation changed on 1 January 2014 from The Model Constitution to the Unitary Constitution, with all responsibility falling under the Kirk Session.

Teams in place under the oversight of the Kirk Session:

- Adult Education
- Bible Study Groups
- Children and Families
- Christian Aid
- Communication and Website
- Eco Group
- Fellowship
- Finance – [more info here](#)
- Learning Disabilities
- Pastoral Care
- Property
- Stewardship
- Worship
- Ecumenical Context

[More info here](#)

Craigsbank is part of Corstorphine Churches Together, a group of ten churches who work in the local area. Six of the churches are Church of Scotland, two are Roman Catholic, one United Free and one Episcopal. The ministers meet regularly and there are joint services during Easter week. Craigsbank is represented on the executive and worship teams. The Corstorphine ministers also take part in reflective assemblies at Craigmount and East Craigs schools.

[More info here](#)



Working in the wider community

Members of the congregation are actively involved with The Church of Scotland General Trustees – the body that holds properties and investments for the church as a whole – and CARTA, the Committee on Church Art and Architecture, charged with advising congregations on how to make church buildings fit for worship and witness today and tomorrow, while respecting their distinctive character.

The Church of Scotland General Trustees – [more info here](#)

CARTA – [more info here](#)

Care Van

Members of the congregation are involved with the operation of the Care Van in Edinburgh, taking food and provisions to homeless people on the streets of Edinburgh. As well as active involvement with the work of the Care Van, the congregation give generously whenever a need is highlighted – for warm clothes, sleeping bags etc.

[More info here](#)



Christian Aid

Our congregation has supported Christian Aid for more than fifty years. The total raised during Christian Aid Week 2018 was an excellent £2,345. We also hold a fundraising breakfast every year and raised £1,165 last December. In August we took part in Christian Aid's emergency appeal to help the victims of the Kerala floods and raised £715.

[More info here](#)

Corstorphine Dementia Project

Members of the congregation have been involved with this project since it was set up in 1991.

[More info here](#)

Eco-Congregation

The Church is a member of Eco-Congregation Scotland (ecocongregationscotland.com) and was granted its first Award from ECS in 2008 followed by a second in 2017. An application has now been prepared under the new Award system for a further Award and is ready for submission to Headquarters in the near future.

The Group continue to champion the ideals of ECS and participate regularly in events organised by ECS and the Edinburgh Network of the Organisation.

Edinburgh Food Project

Several people within the congregation support the work of the Edinburgh Food Project.

[More info here](#)



**christian
aid**



Fair Trade

We are a Fair Trade congregation and run Fair Trade breakfasts once or twice a year. For many years we ran a Fair Trade stall at the church every Sunday but the need for this reduced as Fair Trade products became more widely-available locally.

[More info here](#)

Fresh Start

Members of the congregation work with other church congregations on Fresh Start, to help homeless people get the opportunity to make a success of their new life.

[More info here](#)

Friends of Chogoria Hospital (Kenya)

The congregation raises funds to support the work of Chogoria Hospital – a Christian centre of Excellence offering healthcare services and training.

[More info here](#)

Shoebox Appeal

Individuals at Craigsbank and East Craigs prepare gifts which help to change children's lives all over the world. Through the 26th Craigalmond (Craigsbank) Scout Group the congregation and organisations are involved with Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal.

[More info here](#)



Stewardship and Finance

Our financial situation is healthy

In 2017, the Unrestricted General Fund saw a surplus for the year of £9647, due mostly to an increase in income for the use of the halls which more than offset a slight reduction in offerings. Income increased by 3.4% on the previous year to £136,583. Expenditure increased by 2.5% to £126,935 due to fabric costs and the Ministries and Mission Contribution.

We also have an Unrestricted Legacy Fund which was established in 2013 when the church received a substantial legacy. Initially this fund was used to pay for the congregation's half share of the costs of the Children & Family Worker. Edinburgh Presbytery is now paying for all her employment costs (although this commitment is under review), and the fund is allocated to pay for any major refurbishment of the premises. During 2017, we benefited from a further legacy of £40,000, investment income of £4,088 (2016 £4,416) and unrealised capital gains of £5,382 (2016 £6,304). Expenditure for the Children & Families Worker fell to £794 (2016 £7,175). Fabric expenditure was £6,300 for refurbishing the flooring at Craigsbank (2016 £11,643 on building and insulation work).

Our Ministries and Mission contribution for 2017 totalled £61,216.

[More info here](#)

Update for 2018

The General Fund is paying the Ministries and Mission Contribution of £64,161. The Legacy Fund has received legacies totalling over £10,500. Its expenditure to date includes £4,000 on the grounds surrounding Craigsbank, £1,600 on a moveable speaker system for the halls and over £22,600 on completely renovating the toilet facilities at East Craigs.

Stewardship

We last ran a Stewardship campaign in 2015 which consisted of a STEP UP leaflet to all the congregation. The aim was to encourage people to review their level of giving and also how they gave e.g. standing order/Gift Aid. Income increased by 10%. We should consider our next Stewardship campaign in 2020.

[More info here](#)

Behind the Scenes

Craigsbank Church and East Craigs Church Centre benefit from the work and leadership of two Session Clerks. In recent years, the minister and teams have had the support of a volunteer Church Secretary. The creation of a paid admin support post is now being discussed.

Welcome teams prepare the centres for worship every Sunday and the Property team looks after any upgrading or fast response requirements.





The Manse

The Manse is situated next door to Craigsbank Church. It is a well appointed property built in the 1960s and upgraded on purchase 15 years ago. It offers flexible accommodation over 8/9 rooms and a large garage. There is a drive and on-street parking and an attractive manageable garden.

The house is gas centrally heated and double glazed throughout with intruder alarm and smoke alarms in place. There is a rolling schedule for routine Manse redecoration and maintenance and recent activity includes a new kitchen 2012 and a new central heating boiler in 2015.

The Halls

The extensive provision of Church halls at both Craigsbank and East Craigs offers flexible accommodation for church groups and external organisations ranging from voters in local and general elections to yoga groups and groups for young children. Full details are on our website.



www.facebook.com



Are you the person called to work with us as we move forward?

A letter of application should be submitted, along with a CV and a clear statement of your reasons for applying. Please submit by email to the Clerk of the Nominating Committee, Carol Turnbull at the email address below.

Interviews will be arranged in due course. Please refer to the website for closing date and updates.

Email: carolturnbull@craigbankchurch.org.uk

Website: www.craigbankchurch.org.uk



www.facebook.com

