THE BULLETIN

THE MAGAZINE OF
CORSTORPHINE CRAIGSBANK
PARISH CHURCH

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

New beginnings this Easter

Easter 2022

Craigsbank Church Centre
East Craigs Church Centre
www.craigsbankchurch.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR **DIARY**

'We are an Easter People and Hallelujah is our Song!'

Easter 2022:

Sunday 10 April	**Palm Sunday – 10.30am, East Craigs**
Sunday 10 April	**Messy Church – 2.00pm-4.00pm, Craigsbank**
Monday 11 April	**Holy week morning service – 8.30am - 9.15am, Old Parish Church**
Tuesday 12 April	**Holy week morning service – 8.30am - 9.15am, Craigsbank**
Wednesday, 13 April	**Holy week morning service – 8.30am - 9.15am, St Andrews Church**
Thursday 14 April	**Holy week morning service – 8.30am - 9.15am, St Ninians Church**
Thursday 14 April	**Maundy Thursday – 7.00pm, East Craigs**
Friday 15 April	**Holy week morning service – 8.30am - 9.15am, East Craigs**
Friday 15 April	**Good Friday – 7.00pm, St Anne's Church, Walking of the Cross from Carrick Knowe**
Sunday 17 April	**Easter Sunday – 10.30am, Craigsbank, Future Hope**

Jesus is present in our daily work, our friendships, the joys and sorrows of the world. He releases energy into our world and initiates a programme of renewal with joy, hope and love. In this year of storytelling – we have a great story to tell!

MINISTER'S **LETTER**

The beauty of springtime

How wonderful it must be to be a daffodil in springtime. Straining after the heat, towards the light, breaking through the surface. At last stretching your body wide and proud and excited to show the world the beauty and wonder of your full being. Becoming part of the greater ecosphere around you. Enjoying the company of your peers and of pollinators. Feeding the bees and the butterflies, laying the foundation for future generations.

Oh the beauty of springtime and the joy of life!

But that's not what the daffodil would be feeling in February when the days are still short or in colder times in March when the ground is sometimes still frozen. Then everything feels like a struggle for survival. Desperately trying to make it through what was an all too long winter. When the earth was rock solid and the sun had seemed to leave never to return.

So it's a good thing that daffodils, like all plants, simply get on with living. Not giving up hope. Not giving up the expectation of the circle of life continuing. Not succumbing to the present realities of darkness and cold and the threat of pestilence.

We as thinking, feeling people able to choose our actions and our attitudes, we can learn much from the daffodils. Much like Jesus said we could from the lilies of the field and the grass of the veld. There is no value in having worries weigh us down nor in allowing hopelessness to drain the glint from our eyes.

In the *carpe diem* sounding words of the ancient middle-eastern teacher of Ecclesiastes: 'Each day is God's gift so make the most of each one! Whatever turns up, grab it and do it heartily!'

I love the music, lyrics and art of the Moscow-born, American contemporary musician Regina Spektor. She is a successful musical genius and simultaneously a decent, inspirational woman. In a recent interview when asked how she was coping in a world where we have so much reason to be despairing and miserable, she related the story of her first piano teacher. When

Regina was aged seven she had a music teacher who passionately taught her how to play piano for a few years, until her parents emigrated out of a repressive, post-soviet Russia.

During times of pending gloominess Regina reminds herself of the life-affirming, destiny changing impact that unsung piano teacher had on her life. So instead of worrying about or trying to change everything that might be of concern to Regina, she simply passionately makes music to make the most of each day, knowing that in the process she will be making the world a better place, eventually. She feels inspired by her music teacher who neither lost hope nor stayed at home overcome by late-Soviet angst.

So as we hear of wars and pestilence, natural disasters and overwhelming changes beyond our control, let our hearts not be troubled but let us trust in God's grace by making the most of each day were are gifted. In so doing, we are continuing to make the world a better, more beautiful place, just like the daffodils.

Rev Alan Childs

A **MOMENT** OF **CHANGE**

As you now know, as part of the restructuring of the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh Presbytery is asking Craigsbank to unite with the Old Parish Church in Corstorphine.

This is a 'deep-breath-in' moment for each and every one of us. Watching declining numbers in congregations across Scotland and beyond, we have long known that change had to come – quite simply, the familiar is no longer working and doing more and more of the same, running ever faster, is not bringing results.

And so change has now come and for us, it is a positive change. It gives us a path forward and a genuine opportunity to build enduring faith partnerships, new friendships and a new way of 'being church' in the coming years. We can all be a part of this. It is exciting, it is new, but it is also the most viable option we currently have if we share in the hope that Craigsbank (including both Craigsbank and East Craigs centres) will have a place as a faith community in the north-west of Edinburgh in the future.

What are the plans?

Long term...

The practical details of what an eventual union between us and the Old Parish will look like will be discussed between our two congregations over the course of the coming months. At this point we can report that we have not been asked to release

buildings although an audit of church estate is ongoing. We have been given the green light to keep two ministers and two manses. Most congregations are not in this position. It is hoped that between the two ministers, our own Alan and Rev Moira McDonald (Moira), they will be able to focus on pastoral care and ministering to the new united congregation while reaching out to the new communities emerging at West Craigs. However, it has also been noted that there are many of faith in the existing two parishes who are not currently involved in Church, especially younger and middle-aged people – and so that act of reaching out will embrace them too.

Immediate...

To celebrate the past and plan for a future, together.

Craigsbank – with both of its centres – has served us well for 85 years. In the 1930s Corstorphine was expanding and the village boundaries moving west. In 1933 the Church Extension programme gave consent for a hall-church to be built to serve those moving into the new housing and to create a new parish. The date on the foundation stone of Craigsbank is 1937 (with the original building now forming the church halls). The second phase of building was halted during the second world war but in the early 1960s the congregation had grown and plans for a new sanctuary were approved. Work began in 1963 and the iconic white 'formal church' opened in 1966. In the 1980s the East Craigs area was expanding and a new church building opened in 1984 to serve that community.

Change has been a constant and as each generation has learned that Church is not a building, they have had to come to terms with movement and change of use of the properties that they hold dear.

And now it is our turn to face change and move forward together in faith.

Over the weeks running up to Palm Sunday at the start of Holy Week we invite you to bring-in or send-in images and items from Craigsbank (both centres) over the years. These will be displayed during Holy Week as we celebrate all that has gone before.

On Easter Sunday we will press the big NEW START button and embrace this new moment of change. By that point, your elders will have met with the elders from the Old Parish. Already Alan and Moira are chatting about possible ways of working together. Our Session Clerk is in contact with their Session Clerk. In short we are making a start. Presbytery require the two parishes to become one by early 2025 however they encourage faster progress where possible. In our case it is possible and starting now allows us to take small steps in what we all hope will be a joyful journey together.

In the meantime, we continue to build towards greater community use for our centres with the development of Craigsbank as a creative arts centre and venue and East Craigs as a community centre with a cafe. And we delight in the growing interest in Forest Church.

There is more excitement and motivation within our community than there has been for many years – Craigsbank remains a community where LIFE is celebrated, LOVE is affirmed and GRIEF and JOY are shared.

Jan Rutherford

CORSTORPHINE
OLD PARISH CHURCH

The Corstorphine Old Parish Church will be known to many in our congregation. The church serves the old village of Corstorphine and stretches out to the western edge of the city including the business area of Edinburgh Park and the South Gyle. The church was originally built by the Forrester family of Corstorphine Castle. After nearly 600 years this is still a vibrant church at the heart of the community, 'welcoming the very youngest and oldest and everyone in between'. Their services include a short, hall-based time of worship at 9.40am on a Sunday for young families, consisting of songs, prayers, stories, games and crafts and finish off with coffee and croissants; and a more traditional service at 10.30am, lasting around an hour.

Moira is the current minister and they also have a Workplace and Community Chaplain, Esther Elliott

Interested in finding out more or attending one of their Wednesday open-church guided tours?"
www.facebook.com/CorstorphineOld/
www.corstorphineoldparish.org.uk/

RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE: **REFUGEE SUPPORT**

At the time of writing faith groups around the world are in prayer as Ukraine and Russia enter a fourth week of intense fighting, a second week of war in Europe. Many are searching for ways in which to help those suffering as a result of the conflict and both the Church of Scotland's Faith Impact Forum and Christian Aid have put forward suggestions:

Do you want to help the Ukrainian refugees?

Christian Aid

Our long-term partner, Christian Aid, is raising prayers and funds in support of the relief effort, working with ACT Alliance (a global faith-based coalition), to offer assistance to Ukraine refugees fleeing deadly violence.

Details of how to get involved are here on their website.
www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-crisis-appeal

Church of Scotland Faith Impact Forum

The Church of Scotland Faith Impact Forum suggest that individuals and congregations consider giving, via the Church of Scotland, to Reformed Church in Hungary Aid (RCHA), which is run by the Reformed Church of Hungary. The RCHA has access to the Reformed church in Ukraine who are using their buildings to support the people moving from east to west as they seek safety and sanctuary. They also are working in the border areas of Hungary, Slovakia and Romania using the Reformed Church contacts and buildings there.

They are providing daily updates and you can see more Information here:
https://reformatus.hu/english/news/emergency-response-for-ukraine/

Your donations can be directed to the following account:

Royal Bank of Scotland
Church of Scotland No 1 Account
Account no 00134859

Sort code 83 06 08
Reference RCHA donation
Please gift aid this if possible.

RUN, BABY, RUN!

O Christ,
you are like the mother of all refugees.

How many times have you given up your home,
crossing borders and boundaries
keeping one step ahead of evil to keep safe your father's legacy?

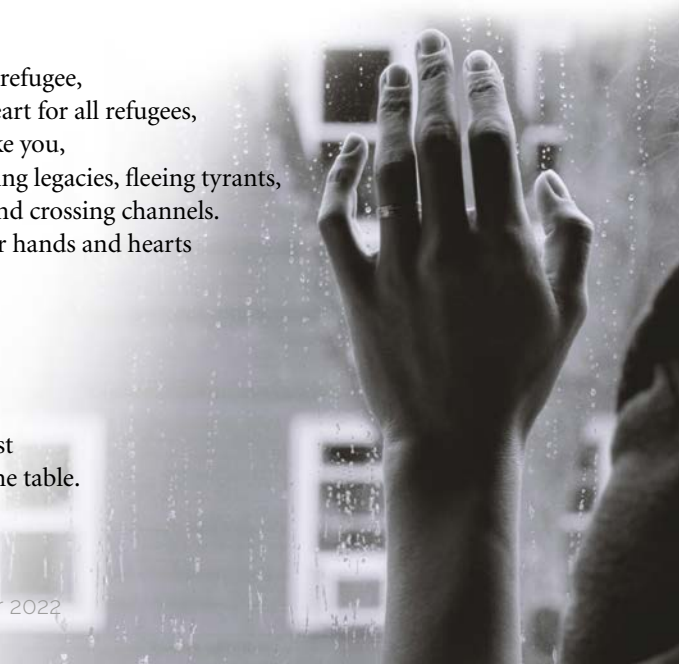
Having left the land of the living to venture into hell to save the lost
from damnation.
Having left your clan in Nazareth years earlier to share God's
compassion for the others
by escaping murder at the hands of a mob simply for claiming God loves everyone.
Having fled Bethlehem a few decades prior along with the surviving bairns,
running with Mary and her man, away from baby bashers.
Refugeeing in Egypt, the land your forebears had to escape from,
themselves led by Moses who had to drift with Meriam away from wean murderers.

But, ultimately, you had to leave heaven for earth, leaving behind
godness for humanness,
exchanging your eternal home for a temporary tent,
Giving up the familiar presence of family for the terrifying
vulnerability of loneliness.

So, as the ultimate sojourning refugee,
we plead with you to have a heart for all refugees,
sons and daughters of man, like you,
people leaving homes, protecting legacies, fleeing tyrants,
trekking through dire straits and crossing channels.
We plead with you to open our hands and hearts
to stretch wide, like yours,
our arms and our homes.

For where you are at home
you prepare enough rooms
and where you sit down to feast
there is always more place at the table.

Amen



MUSIC MATTERS!

As we are now approaching the spring and the days are getting a little longer, I'm delighted to report that the music groups at Craigsbank are pretty much back to normal. Both the Junior Music Makers and the adult singers are able to rehearse on Thursday evenings without the use of face masks and we are very much enjoying the feeling of normality at our group meetings.

During the winter we had a brief period of cancellation with the rise of the Omicron Covid variant and although as a congregation we are still having to sing behind our masks, there are positive signs that we will soon be able to return to normal singing as we did pre-pandemic in the not-too-distant future.

In the cold months of December, January, and February we opened the sanctuary at Craigsbank once a month on a Wednesday evening to offer a little bit of quiet time with some candlelight and reflective music. I think these sessions became known as 'Winter Wednesdays' and the attendance steadily grew month on month. After the first evening in December, I was delighted to be joined in January by Alison Craig and Ros Morrison who brought their own unique musical skills with them, and they kindly returned in February to finish the season.

Since then, I have received a number of requests for these evenings to continue. Given the current situation developing in the Ukraine it comes as no surprise that we feel comforted in our place of worship where we can find a quiet moment to pray and reflect on the concerns of the heart.

At this current time we will be taking a short break from the Wednesday prayer evenings to prepare for Easter, but I hope to be able to announce a new session of dates in the next bulletin.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ros and Alison for sharing their gifts of music and extend that thanks to all of you who came along and supported this special time.

Meanwhile, we are always looking for new members to join our music groups. If you would like to come along and try one of our groups please don't hesitate to get in touch. Fun and friendship is guaranteed.

John Patterson, Church Musician, email: jrgp2011@yahoo.co.uk

SCOTTISH COMMUNITIES WORKING ACROSS THE GENERATIONS FOR A **HEALTHIER PLANET**

It's a good time of year to plant fruit trees and one group of volunteers has taken the opportunity to do just that in the heart of urban Edinburgh – and in the process they are creating a healthier environment, encouraging young people to participate in the growing of food and transforming their local area.

This small band of local volunteers met in the East Craigs area in the west of Edinburgh over the course of one week to transform empty green areas by planting fruit trees. It is hoped that the trees will bring an uplifting display of blossom in the Spring as well as offering a nectar source for bees in the months and years ahead. Come Autumn days in coming years they will provide free fruit for the community,

teaching children the source and importance of fresh food and offering a nesting habitat for birds and a food source for insects. And while doing all of this, they will offer the gift of cleaner air. The project was initiated by the Eco Group of Craigsbank Church and supported greatly by the Park Ranger and staff and the Gardening Team of the City of Edinburgh Council together with the staff and children of East Craigs Primary School.

Stage one of this project took place during National Tree Planting Week 2020 when the Eco Group donated and planted five apple trees in Craigievar Park and five apple trees in Fauldburn Park in the East Craigs area. The trees were 'adopted' by young families from the community who undertook to tend and maintain the trees which are all Scottish Heritage varieties.

During Summer 2021 The Eco Group joined with staff and children of P4 at East Craigs Primary School to work on the wildflower plot and garden plot at Fauldburn Park and thereby the School connection was formed. In Autumn a donation of daffodil bulbs was gifted to the Group by The Council and again the groups joined forces and the bulbs were planted by volunteers from the community and within the School grounds by the children. It is hoped that by this joint effort this will soon bring swathes of joyful colour to the area and brighten the landscape. And this month, the groups received 20 young fruit trees to be planted in these same areas.

The Park Ranger and staff together with the Eco Group and volunteers carried out the preparation of the approved sites for planting ten fruit trees of several Scottish varieties in the East Craigs area and the young folks from the local Scouting and Guiding Groups and children from the community were all involved in the planting and will be responsible (with some help!) with the subsequent care of the trees. The school children and staff at East Craigs Primary have

planted twelve trees within the School grounds as part of this project. The overall age range of those involved in the project ranges from around four to eighty years!

The planting of new trees and hedges is more important than ever if we are to grow a greener, cleaner future for the generations ahead. We can all make a difference whether it is by planting a tree in a tub by our own front door or encouraging businesses to use their drive-ways and entrances for a greener purpose, or indeed working together in communities to transform public spaces. Members of the Eco Group from Craigsbank Church were inspired by the work of the Tree Council who describe trees as 'carbon-storing, pollution-guzzling, wildlife-protecting wonders'. We need a tree-filled future and across Scotland we can all do our bit.

The Eco Group of Craigsbank are indebted to the City of Edinburgh Council through the professional advice of the Park Rangers and the Gardening Teams and the support and encouragement of Councillor Mark Brown and members of the community. The project has been made possible by financial support from The Tree Council.

Jan Rutherford

OUR **NEW** ADMINISTRATOR

For those of you who I haven't yet met– hello! My name is Emily, and I'm the new administrator here at Craigsbank. Here are a few words about myself by way of introduction.

I'm currently 21 years old (probably 22 by the time that you read this), meaning that I have spent the majority of my time as an adult in the pandemic. This has necessarily had quite an impact! I was born and raised in Portobello, Edinburgh, and while I was in P6 my mother left her previous work as a sign-language interpreter to train as a priest in the Episcopal church. Since I was little my father has worked as a Child and Adolescent Mental Health specialist with the NHS, and he is now training half-time to be an OLM within the Church of Scotland.

When I was 11 I began learning the double bass with the Youth Music Initiative, and when I was 12 I transferred to St Mary's Music School. I studied standard academic subjects alongside music, and I left with a place to study academic music at Cambridge.

While there, I gained a choral scholarship with the chapel choir, singing at regular services and touring internationally with them until the pandemic hit. At that point I turned my attention fully to my academic studies, eventually writing my final dissertation on the concepts of femininity and music. Since graduating last Summer I have worked with St Cuthbert's to organise their exhibition for Cop-26, and spent two months in Florence as Visiting Junior Fellow with the Medici Archive Project. And that brings us up to now!

I'm really looking forward to being able to support this next stage of congregational life at Craigsbank and East Craigs. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there's anything that I can do for you, or drop by the office if you would like to say hi.

Emily Addis

FOREST CHURCH

Many of you will have had the experience of transcendence in relation to a particular time or place. These moments often deeply connect us with God and his creation. Forest Church is a way to explore this connectedness.

On the fifth Sunday in a month, we, the fellowship of Craigsbank and East Craigs Church, seek to do just that. We have the opportunity to worship together in the open air, amongst nature and in places which are of significance to us. This is a fresh expression of worship, drawing on much older traditions, when people recognised holy places, e.g. wells, springs, trees or copses, and practised their faith outdoors. Nowadays, whilst having lost to a large extent, our connectedness with nature, we are beginning to recognise again, the benefits of spending time with nature and in wild places.

Forest Church is not about taking a normal act of worship into the outdoors, but it aims to engage with the natural world, God's marvellous creation, to experience God's message to us through nature, to reflect on his word, and to participate with the natural world and in it.

Over the past year, on our fifth Sundays, we have worshipped amongst the trees at Cammo Estate, planted tree seeds in old boots and shoes at East Craigs (indoors due to the weather), and around the apple trees at Craigievar Park. Through each coming together we aim to learn through community worship, to meditate and pray together, and to engage with the trees, at the spring, along the sea shore, up a mountain... wherever we may gather.

All are welcome. If you have mobility problems which might inhibit your involvement, please do not hesitate to contact us through the Church Office, and we will endeavour to make suitable arrangements for you.

Esther Davidson

SUPPORT ON **LIFE'S JOURNEY**

I never heard or knew anything about the Railway Mission before I started working for them part-time in February 2020.

The Railway Mission (RM) started their work in 1881. The RM employed chaplains throughout the railway to support Railway Staff, who during that time had a tendency to waste all their hard earned money on the drink, instead of supporting their families financially. A lot has changed over the decades, but the Railway Mission still supports Railway staff on their life journeys.

We provide incident-support and a listening ear for staff going through difficult times with their mental health, physically, financially, relationally etc. We offer impartial and confidential support which provides opportunities to reflect and share without feeling judged or that it might compromise their right to privacy. We also offer support to the members of the British Transport Police who sometimes go through stressful situations with abuse, dealing with trauma and often working very long hours. In Scotland we work with all the different Railway Companies like Scotrail, Avanti and Cross Country, to name a few. We have a strong connection with Network Rail, one of our main sponsors.

Railway Mission is an NGO and we rely on donations from the railway companies, individuals and churches. We have a Christian ethos, but offer support to all without any bias.

It is indeed a position where you meet a VERY wide range of people, go to so many stations, travel a lot and you have a wide open door to share the love of God in the most unchurchy way imaginable. Never a dull moment!

Istie Childs

Alexander McCall Smith wrote the following poem in March, in celebration of World Book Day and recognition of those suffering in Eastern Europe. He kindly gave permission for it to be shared here:

IN **TROUBLED** TIMES

A poem for World Book Day, 2022

Somewhere as I write these lines
Armies clash, the
  speechless innocent flee,
The rumbling armour and the fire,
And skies, once clear and optimistic,
Darken with intended smoke;
In the classroom,
  incredulous as children,
We sit mute with shock, as history
Wags her firm admonitory finger,
Reminds us of the foolishness
Of forgetting how things
Have a way of being, however much
We think we've put all that away,
The past is never far away, she says,
The past recurs, again and
  then once more.

In shadows and in darkness,
In moments of despair
At how malignant ambition can
Threaten the ordinary lives
Of unexceptional people,
We turn, when we can,
To the things that help,
Of which love and charity,
Are the main foundations;
And seek in books, those universal
Depositaries of human truth,
The things we want and need
To make us strong, the evidence
To prove that light will still exist
The darker it otherwise gets,
And will be there, stubbornly
Glorious on the printed page.

Alexander McCall Smith

SUPPORT SERVICES

Cruse Bereavement Care provides support after the death of someone close including face-to-face, telephone, group support, as well as bereavement support for children.

Phone: 0845 600 2227 (Scotland)

ChildLine is a free, 24-hour confidential helpline for children and young people who need to talk.

Phone: 0800 1111

Macmillan Cancer Support provides medical, practical, emotional and financial support to cancer patients, their carers, friends and family.

Phone: 0808 808 0000

Carers UK provides support and information to those who look after an older, disabled or seriously ill family member or friend.

Phone: 0808 808 7777 (weekdays 10am-4pm)

Citizens Advice Service provides information on benefits, employment and housing and help on debt, credit and legal issues.

Phone: 0131 510 5510

Alzheimer Scotland provides information, advice and personalised support services across Scotland.

Phone: 0808 808 3000 (24 hours)

Samaritans is available for anyone struggling to cope and provide a safe place to talk 24 hours a day.

Phone: 116 123

SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health) can provide general mental health information and signpost you to your local services.

Phone: 0141 530 1000 (Mon-Fri 9 – 5)

Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline offers telephone information and support to anyone affected by domestic abuse or forced marriage.

Phone: Lines open 24/7 0800 027 1234

Care and Repair Edinburgh is an independent charity and is part of the Age Scotland family. They are part of the Age Scotland Independent Living services designed to help people live independently for as long as they want and are able. They offer a range of practical services to help people repair, improve or adapt their homes so that they may remain in their own homes in comfort and independence for as long as possible. They can be contacted either by emailing

reception@cre.scot
phoning 337 1111

CHURCH INFORMATION

Your District Elder or District Visitor

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Minister

Rev Alan Childs
Tel: 0131 466 5196
Email: achilds@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk

Elaine Thompson
sessionclerk@craigsbankchurch.org.uk

Church Administrator

Emily Addis
Tel: 0131 334 6365
Email: administrator@craigsbankchurch.org.uk
Emily is working from both church centres:
Wednesdays at Craigsbank 9am to 3pm
Thursdays at East Craigs 9am to 3pm
Fridays at Craigsbank 9am to 12noon

Pastoral Care Team Correspondence

Carol Turnbull
Email: carol.turnbull3@btinternet.com

For more information about the church visit our website

www.craigsbankchurch.org.uk

Thanks for all the contributions for this issue. Please continue to send in photos or items at any time.

Craigsbank is a parish of the Church of Scotland
Charities number: SCO14719