

THE BULLETIN

THE MAGAZINE OF
CORSTORPHINE CRAIGSBANK
PARISH CHURCH

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



A promise of New Growth



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

Late
Summer
2025



DATES FOR YOUR **DIARY**

Autumn 2025

Our services take place at 10.30am every Sunday, alternating between Craigsbank Church and East Craigs Church Centre. Please check the website and Westoverland newsletters for week-by-week locations.

Special dates to note are listed below.

October

Sunday 5	Harvest at Craigsbank, Church, 10.30am
Sunday 12	Harvest at East Craigs Church Centre, 10.30am
Sunday 26	ECO Chaplain to lead service at East Craigs Church Centre, 10.30am

November

Sunday 9	Remembrance Service, East Craigs Church Centre, 10.30am
Sunday 9	Messy Church, 3-5pm at Corstorphine Old Parish
Sunday 16	Communion, Craigsbank Church, 10.30am
Sunday 23	Communion, East Craigs Church Centre, 10.30am
Sunday 30	Cafe Church, First Sunday in Advent, Craigsbank Church Halls, 10.30am



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THE SCENT OF SUMMER

Some say the defining scent of summer is that of a barbeque, some say it is sunscreen lotion, and others that it is fresh lavender. Whatever it might be to you, I hope it is a pleasant one and that you experienced much of it.

Hearing what people are and were up to this summer often leads to stories of holidays abroad, outward bound trips locally, adulting children moving out of their parental houses in preparation for university, and folks generally appreciating the time to be leisurely, relaxing without feeling guilty for recharging the batteries.

In this edition of the congregation's Bulletin there are summer stories of adventures and get-togethers, reminiscences and shared group experiences. In one way or another they all involve community – when individuals enjoy a richer, deeper life experience as part of a larger group who share interests and a sense of appreciation of one another. These range from the annual Summer Tea Afternoon for our highly valued oldest members gathering (hosted by the Pastoral Care Team and the Hospitality Team), to the weekly Wednesday morning coffees and bubbles in the new Meadowfield Park for people moving into the new western expansion (hosted by the Pioneering Team) and lots in between, including the fun WonderZone holiday club at Craigsbank (supported by the Young Family Ministry Team).



I am grateful for the calling and opportunity we all have as Christians to develop a deeper and richer sense of community with one another and our neighbours in and around our parish(es). With that in mind, we also include an important update on our unification process with the Old Parish congregation (see page 4) that includes important dates and information about the formal voting process.

God bless you,
Alan



UNION WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS

Time to Vote on our Union - Please read this article in full

You might remember that over a year ago we presented a vision for our union between Craigsbank and the Old Parish, a union that was agreed as part of the Presbytery Plan that is seeing similar unions between many other churches across the city and the country. These unions are coming about in response to a number of issues – the falling number of ministers, too many church buildings across Scotland, falling numbers attending worship and falling finances in the Church of Scotland. Locally, where there are five Church of Scotland congregations all very close to one another geographically, it made sense for the Old Parish and Craigsbank to become one, and also to allow new or pioneering ministry to take place in the huge number of homes being built to the west of Maybury Road, while ministering to the existing communities to the east of Maybury Road.

The Kirk Sessions of both Craigsbank and the Old Parish voted in favour of this proposal and the Presbytery Plan was passed, which is where the real hard work began. How would we become a union, how would the two ministers work together in this ever-growing parish, where would we worship, what would we

be called? The vision statement we produced last year was the product of six months of meetings for the steering group comprising representatives from both congregations. While it was generally well received, the progress of our union was slowed down by changes and discussions in our neighbouring parishes – the other three churches in the Corstrophine area.

Although those changes have yet to be resolved, we have been able to carry on with our planning, and at a meeting of the steering group in August, Stewart Weaver, the convenor of the Presbytery Deployment committee, was able to set out a timeline for us as we move towards union.

What will the union look like?

Our proposal is that Alan, the minister of Craigsbank, will concentrate on pioneer ministry in the western expansion, reaching out to and establishing Church in the new houses and communities to the west of Maybury Road. Moira, the current minister of the Old Parish, will look after the existing parish of Craigsbank in addition to that of the Old Parish, the two ministers working together as a team.

There will be one Kirk Session comprising of the current elders of the two churches, and teams covering the needs and aspirations of the new union – Worship, Mission Social, Pastoral, Logistics (comprising of Finance, Fabric, Administration, HR, and Communications), Performing Arts, and a Growing Young team seeking to find ways of reaching out to youth and young families..



Where will worship be held?

Initially there will be two Sunday services each week – one a traditional service as we have now, the other a less formal service aimed at a younger generation – as well as a midweek service. We plan to alternate these services to be held in different buildings each week, allowing people to attend whichever style of worship they prefer, or whichever building they prefer, but with variety, and the opportunity to meet with new people and build our church. If our union goes ahead as planned on 1 January 2026, we would hope these new service styles would be introduced after Easter in order to give the ministry team time to plan and work out the logistics of the service pattern.

This is our plan and both the ‘Basis of Union’ and the ‘Basis of Team Ministry’, both necessary church of Scotland documents, have now been approved in principle



by our own Kirk Sessions, as well as the Deployment Committee of Presbytery and the Principal Clerk's Office.

What happens next?

The next bit involves us all – The Deployment Committee will visit both Kirk Sessions (which are meeting separately) on the evening of **Wednesday 3 September**, asking elders to vote formally on both documents. Representatives of the committee will then visit both congregations on the morning of **Sunday 19 October** where, after the morning service, all members and adherents who are present at the service will be asked to vote on the union. There are no proxy votes and **voters must be present on the day**.

Because we are moving towards a team ministry (rather than one minister simply becoming the minister of another charge), both congregations – the Old Parish and Craigsbank – will be asked to vote on two matters each. Concerning Moira, the Old Parish congregation must vote on sharing her with Craigsbank as their parish minister, while Craigsbank must vote on receiving her in that shared role as their parish minister. Concerning Alan, the Craigsbank congregation must vote on reassigning him as pioneer minister, focused on the new developments to the west of Maybury Road and shared with the Old Parish, while the Old Parish must vote on receiving him in that shared role as their pioneering minister for the new developments to the west of Maybury. This is to comply with the Church of Scotland law that congregations choose their minister and do not have ministers imposed upon them.

If the 'Basis of Union' and the 'Basis of Team Ministry' are approved at both churches then the vote is reported to Presbytery for their approval and, if granted, we are able to become a union, aiming for 1 January 2026.

Our name will be **Corstorphine: Old and New Parish Church**.



Here are the important dates to be noted:

- **Wednesday 3 September** – Both Kirk Sessions vote on the ‘Basis of Union’ and the ‘Basis of Team Ministry’ in the presence of members of the Deployment committee. This will be by show of hands.
- **Sunday 19 October** – Members and adherents of both congregations vote (in their own churches) on the same documents, also in the presence of the Deployment Committee. This will be a secret ballot with voting papers.
- **Tuesday 4 November** – Presbytery will receive the results of the ballot. Members of both congregations will be invited to attend.
- **1 January 2026 – Corstorphine: Old and New** comes in to being.

After 18 months of meeting, discussing and planning, sometimes waiting on others and taking on changes, the Steering group and Kirk Sessions hope that our plans for a union will be well received and accepted, and that our new union will be one where neighbours work together in the kingdom of God in our area.

Please do speak to members of the Steering group if you have questions and comments;

- At Craigsbank they are Alan the minister and Elaine Thompson the Session Clerk, plus John Baker, Mike Brough, Alan Kennedy, Susan Ross and Paul Spencer.
- At the Old Parish they are Moira the minister and Jane Walker the Session Clerk, plus Maureen Stewart, Andrew Thom, Linda Ingle and Katherine Andrews.

Your prayers on this important unification process will be invaluable.

Come and cast your vote on 19 October 2025.



MISSION ON OUR DOORSTEP

Over the next decade, an epic transformation will be unfolding right on our doorstep. Those familiar swathes of farmland and quiet industrial pockets between Edinburgh Airport and Maybury Road, stretching out on both sides of the A8000 towards Turnhouse Road, are rapidly giving way to burgeoning housing developments. Thousands of homes, alongside schools, shops, a few parks and some infrastructure are springing up.

We're talking about tens of thousands of people – young families, busy professionals, vital key workers, and many new Scots – who will soon call this corner of Edinburgh home. These aren't just building sites; they are the very nurseries of new communities. But bricks and mortar alone won't build community. High-speed broadband won't magically foster a sense of belonging. This is precisely where we, as a church, have something profoundly important, deeply beautiful, and much needed to offer.

The people moving in will be asking, consciously or not: 'Where do I fit in here?' 'Who are my neighbours?' 'Who will genuinely welcome me?' 'Where can I find meaning, true connection, and care?'

Our Christian faith, at its very heart, teaches us that God delights in turning strangers into neighbours, and neighbours into family. We are called to mirror God's own radical hospitality, His generous charity, His boundless patience and kindness, and above all, His transformational love.

Just imagine: in these brand-new communities, the very first person to extend a hand to a new resident is a Christian. Not just a friendly wave, but a heartfelt invitation. Perhaps to a relaxed neighbourhood picnic. A lively toddler group. A friendly walking club. Or simply a warm cup of tea and a chat on the doorstep.

Today, mission isn't so much about grand pronouncements from a pulpit, but about showing up. It's about bringing a freshly baked casserole, offering sincere compassion, and demonstrating consistent, unwavering care.

What if our church was among the very first to truly put down roots in these areas? Not just by erecting a building, but by establishing a genuine presence – a community of people committed to listening intently, serving humbly, and loving with overflowing generosity?

These emerging communities are essentially blank canvases. Developers might talk about 'placemaking' and 'community cohesion,' but the truth is, strong, enduring communities need more than clever urban planning. They need shared values, authentic relationships, deep-seated trust, and a compelling shared story.

Christian values have quietly, yet powerfully, shaped Scotland for centuries, and they still resonate profoundly today. Hospitality, charity, respect, dignity, and kindness aren't just abstract ideals; they are practical, tangible values for transforming a housing development into a caring community. They are the living, breathing ways we show the world what God is truly like.

It might not look like the traditional mission field we often imagine. There's no jungle, no language barrier, no glaring, obvious need for basic survival. Just diggers, scaffolding, and shiny show homes. But remember - this is sacred ground. These new neighbourhoods are places where God is actively at work, and where the church has an incredible opportunity to bear witness to a better, more hopeful story.

The west of Edinburgh is growing. Let's grow with it, in faith and in love. Let's plant, let's pray, and let's be truly present.



3 FACTS: THE WESTERN EXPANSION

1. The Wars of the Three Kingdoms which took place from 1639 to 1653 saw Gogar used as a battleground. The Scottish army under General David Leslie clashed with Oliver Cromwell's English forces in August of 1650, initially starting off in Corstorphine. Leslie led his army to Gogar, a strategic move due to the boggy landscape which gave the Scots superior positioning from the beginning. Cromwell began attacks that were matched by Leslie. It was a battle of artillery which lasted around three hours and caused the English to retreat to Musselburgh, though it was not a decisive Scottish victory.



2. The Turnhouse landing ground for aircraft was established in 1915 and was used in WW1 for two years. When the Royal Air Force formed in 1918, it took over the airfield to then be known as RAF Turnhouse. From 1939 to 1940, three runways were built, and it became a sector station. In 1947, Edinburgh Airport was opened in Turnhouse by British European Airways to link flights from Edinburgh to London. In 1971, the British Airways Association took control of the airport and six years later in 1977, Queen Elizabeth II opened the new and improved Edinburgh Airport.



3. Ingliston has had multiple notable Roman archaeological findings. In the 17th century, a fragment of a Roman milestone was found near Ingliston. This is one of the earliest Roman milestones in Scotland and demonstrated the distance from Ingliston to Trimontium in Newstead, near Melrose. There was also the 'Roman Eagle of Ingliston', a stone carving first mentioned in various 17th century texts. A filing error caused the artefact to be technically lost to history in 1974. However, history buff Andy Wallace investigated this in late 2024, to which the eagle was found in the Corstorphine Heritage Centre and is now properly recorded.

Scott Wilson

A **NEW** COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Corstorphine East & West Craigs Community Council is a new volunteer run group formed in March 2025. We act as a key link between residents and the City of Edinburgh Council representing community views on various local issues.

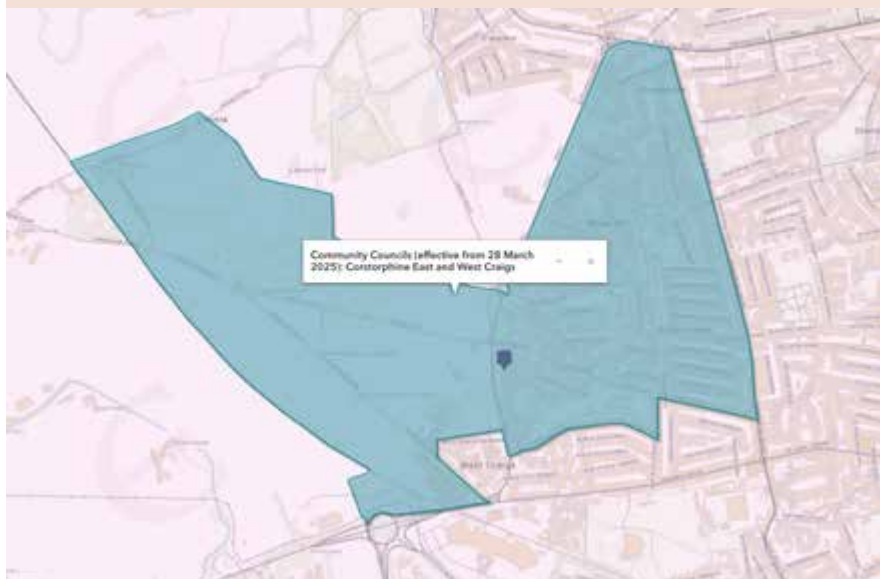
At our local monthly meetings we advise, petition, influence, and advocate for the area covered by CEWCCC, engaging with residents to better understand their needs and concerns. Our aim is to enhance the well-being of our area by giving residents, groups and local businesses a voice when it comes to amenities and infrastructure.

We cover an area to the west of Drum Brae taking in East Craigs & Fauldburn, west to the new development of West Craigs as far south as Turnhouse Road excluding north Gyle.

Local councillors as well as groups & community police give regular reports to our monthly meetings.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 17 September, 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Craigsbank church hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

You can contact us by email at [**info.cewccc@gmail.com**](mailto:info.cewccc@gmail.com)





GROWING YOUNG

A hope-filled future for our congregation(s)

Craigsbank Church and Corstorphine Old are taking another step forward, together.

We are excited that our congregations are jointly embarking on the Growing Young programme – an inspiring initiative run by the Church of Scotland and launched originally by Fuller Youth Institute to help churches across the world become more welcoming, vibrant, and spiritually alive for all generations, especially young people.

You may be thinking, ‘But we don’t have many young families or teenagers’. That’s exactly why Growing Young is such a timely opportunity for us. This is not about flashy youth programmes or trying to be trendy. It’s about becoming the kind of community where all ages – including young people – feel they belong, are valued, and can grow in faith.

On the Growing Young journey, we’ll be learning together how to listen deeply, build authentic relationships across generations, and discover the gifts already within our congregations that can help us grow into a future that God is calling us toward. It’s about reimagining our church culture so that young people feel they don’t just attend, but that they truly belong.

The programme is rooted in six core commitments found in churches that are flourishing with young people, including warmth, empathy, reprioritising young voices, and focusing on Jesus. Over the next year, we’ll receive support, coaching, and tools to help us reflect, pray, and take meaningful steps – at a pace that works for us.

This is not just a project for ‘young people’ – it’s a journey for our whole church family. And it begins with hope.

Please join us in praying for this season of growth, listening for God’s leading, and embracing the beautiful possibility that our churches can grow young again.

ALPHA FOR YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

On eleven warm summer Sunday evenings, a small band of 18–35-year-olds has gathered at East Craigs Church Centre. Together they have shared a meal and discussed their thoughts on religion, faith, Christianity, spirituality and living in today's world. Some came from a church background, some were encountering faith for the first time, some rediscovering, and some questioning the place of God in today's society.



A group from the congregation pulled together to provide the suppers and to lead the discussions (ideally listening more than talking) which were centred around the Alpha course. As soon as we started chatting, the conversations went in many different, useful, uplifting directions and everyone contributed.

It has been a privilege to get to know each and every one of the twelve who have attended and to possibly welcome them into our church family. We have learned as much as they have.

BAPTISM

We welcomed the family of Scott Wilson at Café Church on the last Sunday of June, to witness and celebrate his baptism. It was so lovely to meet Scott's parents as he publicly declared his faith and joined his first church family.



MAY MESSY CHURCH

On the afternoon of Sunday 25 May at East Craigs Church Centre, we held our first joint Messy Church with the Old Parish. The theme of the afternoon was Ascension, Pentecost and celebrating the birthday of the Christian Church. The event was expertly planned by Elaine Wood, Old Parish probationer, and members of both congregations ran the activities and greeted the families. It was fantastic to have so many children, 32 in total, join in. Lots of known friends were welcomed back and strangers became friends. And we had fun! Birthday bunting was produced, cupcakes decorated, celebration mocktails created (and drunk), games played, crafts completed, balloons raced, songs sung and dances danced. Lots of chatter and laughter created the soundtrack to the afternoon.

It was lovely to form friendships and working partnerships across our soon-to-be-joint congregations and have such a successful and well attended Young Families Ministry Team event.

Our next Messy Church will take place at the Old Parish on 9 November from 3.00 – 5.00pm.

As this edition of the Bulletin goes to print, we have just finished hosting our summer club, WonderZone for primary age children – a fun-filled week of science, craft, games and stories

PARK WEDNESDAYS

Throughout the school summer holiday weeks, the pioneering team have been having fun in the park!

Young families in the growing West Craigs and Turnhouse areas were invited to join us on Wednesday mornings (come rain or shine), between 10 am and 12 noon at Meadowfield Park, next to the new Maybury Primary School. We offered crafts, games and bubble making for the youngest members of the community. Tea and coffee for the adults (and sometimes fresh scones) and together we got to know our new neighbours a little better.

