

JUNIOR MUSIC MAKERS' CONCERT

The Junior Music Makers performed for their friends and families on Thursday 19 June. The concert was a mixture of song from stage and screen, performed with energy and enthusiasm. The youngest performer, Holly, was aged four and the eldest performer, Nicole, was aged ten. Every child volunteered to sing a solo or duet and the confidence they have built over their time with JMM was evident.

The concert opened with two songs from Bugsy Malone – 'Bad Guys' and 'Fat Sam's Grand Slam' – with the JMMers even helping with the choreography! This was followed by 'One Jump', soloist – Rose, and 'A Whole New World', soloists – Rose and Finn, from Aladdin. 'Rainbow Connection', made famous by Kermit and the Muppets, was next with a lovely duet from Lily and Alice G and then Isla and Nicole led 'A Tale As Old As Time' from Beauty and the Beast. Lily wowed the crowd with 'Castle On A Cloud' from Les Miserables before everyone performed 'Little People' from the same show. We were then delighted by Holly's performance of the 'Prologue' from Joseph and His Technicoloured Dreamcoat before Amelia led everyone in 'Any Dream Will Do'. 'When I Grow Up' from Matilda was next. The part of Matilda was sung by Alice F and Amelia took the part of Miss Honey with everyone else singing the parts of the rest of the school children – this song has many words and is very fast! The whole ensemble slowed things down with 'Inchworm' from Hans Christian Anderson but that doesn't mean it was easy. This song is performed as two counter melodies sung together – quite tricky but executed wonderfully by our young singers.

The concert finale was the very apt 'So Long, Farewell' from The Sound of Music. Each of our Junior Music Makers sung the part of one Von Trapp child as a solo or duet, with Holly taking the part of the youngest, Gretl. We had John starring as Captain Von Trapp from the piano and the audience joined in for the final 'Good night' singing the part of the party guests!

Our adult singers kindly provided refreshments for the aftershow party and most audience members stayed and socialised. There were MANY complimentary comments made by our audience and the children all enjoyed performing together. A lovely time was had by all.

Ros Morrison

SAYING *AU REVOIR* TO OUR MUSICIAN, JOHN



Our Café Church service on the 29 June was packed with music, memory making, faith and companionship. Many of our congregation and friends came along to mark John Patterson's final Sunday with us (for a while). John has made the difficult decision to step back from his role as church musician to allow him the chance to have more of a work/life balance. Working five days a week in his full-time job and two days a week with Craigsbank and East Craigs has given him very little time to spend with his family, friends and hyperactive collie dog – Tess.

Our café service celebrated John in different ways. Emma and Jenny sang the beautiful duet, 'For Good', from the musical *Wicked*, leaving many of us with slightly damp eyes. We all joined in with Abba's 'Thank You For the Music', which seemed too fitting to leave out. John chose the song 'Friends', for the two of us. And I didn't cry, at least not then.... We finished with a Fischy Music song, 'Doo, Doo, Doo' sung by the Singers with Finn, Rose and Holly from the Junior Music Makers, with everyone else joining in. It was wonderful to have many of our musicians joining us too – Scott on the drums, Al on the fiddle and Kyle the guitar. With me on bass and guitar and John on the keyboard we created a great celebration band.

There was much love and laughter in the room and it was a truly joyful occasion.

John's musical skills will be very much missed and (perhaps more importantly) his kind manner and his compassionate care and gentle direction of the Adult Singers will be very difficult to replace. John approached every practice with good humour and a calm demeanour. He challenged the singers, often without them realising. They learned and performed music by Rutter and Bach as well as pieces in much more modern styles that many of us wouldn't have considered possible. It often took many weeks (months!) of practice, breaking every section down and learning them thoroughly, then putting it all back together before we were

confident enough to sing for our congregation. John embraced the new material he was given in the *God Welcomes All* supplement to CH4 and always chose hymns that were appropriate for the season and festivals of the church as well as being beautiful both in words and melody. We all joined in laughing over 'Alan's Challenge of the Week' when we would be presented on the Thursday evening with an unknown or lesser-known hymn with which to lead the congregation on Sunday morning. Alan was never told about us referring to his 'challenge' as we were worried he'd *up the ante* even further!

Junior Music Makers and Winter Wednesdays will now take a break as John was the glue that held these events together. Hopefully they won't be gone forever. John's preparations for our contemplative Wednesday evenings instilled confidence in the performers and led the mellow vibe of the evening. We had regular attendees and occasional drop-ins who all commented on how much they appreciated the repertoire and the atmosphere that was created with the candle-light and simple, quiet music. It was a joy to be part of this.

Junior Music Makers was the exact opposite – it was a riot of sound and colour! The different children we had the privilege to work with over the last five years were all wonderful, from the shy and nervous to the confident and bold. Some came to us knowing they were joining in with people they knew, some came knowing no-one initially. They all left having made new friends. JMM was a pipe-dream idea of mine that John helped make a reality. I will always be grateful to him for supporting my whim and standing with me to make it a success.

So, for now, we say *au revoir* to John. He will be much missed. Once he's had a break, travelled, caught up with friends and family and gone on very long walks with Tess, he'll be back worshipping with us. I'm sure he'll get a very warm welcome when he does.

Ros Morrison – Please note a longer version of this article is available on the news section of our website.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

This is a peek into the Social Evening enjoyed by the members of our **Singers Group** in June, just before the Summer break from Thursday evening practice sessions. I think readers of this article can see from the expressions on the faces that a good time was had by all as we shared a 'pot-luck supper' and had a great chat and time for reminiscing and fun.

What will the future bring for the Singers' Group as we lose the never-ending patience of John as our leader and musician? Hopefully the Group will hold together and continue to support with song in Services and at Festivals under a new leader. That is the intention!

THANK YOU, John and Ros for all your work and support and the Currie family for hosting our evening together.

Now WATCH THIS SPACE and feel free to join our Group!

Ann Currie



GIRLGUIDING

On behalf of Karen and myself, I would just like to thank you for our beautiful gifts as we 'retire' from running the 103rd C Rainbow Unit at East Craigs. As a Leadership team we have given over 70 years to Girlguiding. Thank you also to Julie Wilkinson and Anne Currie for coming along last Tuesday to present the gifts.

The church has always been so supportive to us over the years for which we are truly grateful. Thanks especially to Julie and Alison McKay for their support as our Link Elders. Fortunately, someone has come forward who will be taking the Unit forward, thus ensuring that Tuesday night Rainbows will continue at East Craigs.

For me, personally, it will be strange not going to Craigsbank or East Craigs for a weekly meeting as I started Brownies at Craigsbank on a Tuesday night with Linda McAndrew and Elaine Thompson back in 1976 and I never left. Whilst still at Guides I started helping with the Wednesday Brownies at Craigsbank with the late Liz Duncan and I stayed there until 2000, when I moved over to running the Rainbows firstly on a Friday at East Craigs and then a Tuesday.

Thank you again and wishing you all the best.

Elizabeth Paterson





THE QUEST FOR PEACE

Peace – Embracing the Aftertaste

‘An eight-week spiritual journey, delving into the profound meanings of biblical peace (*shalom*), guided by St. Augustine of Hippo’ – the project emerged out of a casual conversation with Alan about my academic research. Listening attentively as always, he offered me the opportunity to lead an informative discussion course open to anyone, regardless of age or faith background.

I greatly benefited from the experiences of the crew on board, including two members in their nineties, full of enriching insights, and two keen meditators, who opened our eyes to the relevance of contemplation for inner peace. Everyone was a witness to the fact that a quest for peace could start from ordinary, daily activities, such as checking blood pressure, taking a casual stroll in the woods, or having a chance conversation with neighbours.

Of course, earthly peace is different from what God wishes because of our sinfulness.

Yet every one of us is a created being endowed with indestructible goodness ingrained in our ego (the self) – or more specifically, in our ‘gut’, which is the hidden seat of God’s mercy. No matter how imperfect it may be, Christians



are called to be alert to any 'lack' of peace and reach out. But how are we to engage in such a lofty mission?

In search for clues, we listened carefully to what our guide Augustine had to say in his seven-stage 'table of peace': be peaceful with (1) body, (2) emotion, (3) reason, and (4) yourself as a whole person; furthermore with (5) family, (6) a community, both national and international; finally with (7) nature. For Augustine, each stage was an indispensable and integral part of the heavenly peace, as envisioned at the time of Creation and to be perfected at the End Time.

Yes, our peacemaking may remain imperfect. Still, God expects us to activate the often-dormant, yet innate goodness, so that we engage ourselves in the recovery of a 'defect' of peace at any stage of the stairway to heavenly peace. Augustine still has a lot to offer us, who was a pessimistic realist in his doctrine, yet an avid preacher of peacemaking through Christ-like love, urging his congregation to participate in the mission of 'perfecting the imperfect' as much as possible within human limitations.

Now safely back home in Japan, I keep embracing the aftertaste of the Quest. I will incorporate the insights I gained through this intellectual and spiritual journey into a book in Japanese, which aims to introduce Augustine's social and political thought on peace to a vast non-Christian audience. Next spring, I hope to update you on the progress when I return to Edinburgh for a brief research trip

Shinji Kayama

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The place where I went most often during my stay in Edinburgh was Craigsbank Church. I did not participate in Sunday services, I am sorry. But I went to the church for The Toastie Thursday, a weekly English lesson with Christie – Alan's daughter, Network, Music for Life, and Good Friday events. I also went there to practice the piano for a café church in March!

Especially, Toastie Thursday was a memorable experience for me. When I was in Japan, I have taken part in many church activities. But I had never experienced such a well-organized community service. Pastors and church members had good communication with one another and with school students and also with school teachers.

From the interaction with Craigsbank members, I truly felt the joy of Christian fellowship, even for a person who came from the Far East. *Arigato* to everyone at Craigsbank for your kindness.

Mami Kayami



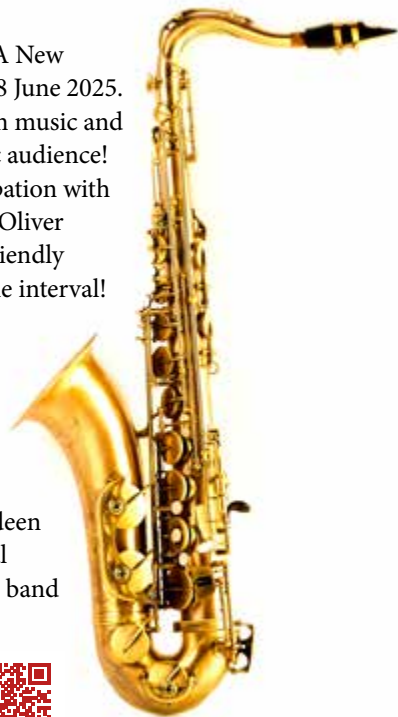


A NEW BEGINNING

Bristo Community Concert Band enjoyed celebrating 'A New Beginning' at Craigsbank Parish Church on Saturday 28 June 2025. The group performed a wide variety of music, from film music and musicals to traditional tunes, in front of an enthusiastic audience! There was also an opportunity for the audience participation with 'Sing-a-long', which included 'Consider Yourself' from Oliver and 'Hi Diddle Dee Dee'. Delicious home baking and friendly conversation was the perfect accompaniment during the interval!

The band is incredibly grateful to Mike and Ann Brough for their help on the day, and to Craigsbank for such a warm welcome since beginning rehearsals at the church in April 2025. However, the biggest thank you goes to the audience for coming and enjoying the music.

Upcoming events for BCCB include a tour to Aberdeen in mid-September followed by short concerts at Central Lending Library and St Cecilia's Hall in November. The band also looks forward to another concert at Craigsbank, possibly in December. More details can be found on the website: www.bristoccband.co.uk





ECO GROUP **TREE CARE**

Anne and Lewis replaced one of the fruit trees at Craigievar Park midway through July and got chatting to Kate from the Community Council. Kate had the idea of using the fruit trees around the area as the focal point for community events.

This could work out as a bigger Apple Day event like we had last year. And a potential mission within our pioneering activity to boost efforts in the West along with the Community Council.

Keep an eye on our website for updates.

At the beginning of August, Anne took photographs of the trees laden with fruit and looking very healthy indeed!

Our thanks to the Eco Team and to Lewis for all their hard work in this area. The immense effort is appreciated by those who live, walk and play in the area but also by all at Craigsbank and East Craigs.

Eco Group



FUN WITH FLOWERS

Aileen Kells ran a workshop for the flower team at East Craigs on Monday, 14 July 2025. It was an afternoon of flower arranging, chat, but most of all fun, and here you can see the ladies proudly showing off their arrangements. Well done Julie, Suzy and Sheena and if you look closely you can see the cup and saucer arrangements at the front made from the smaller pieces of material left over. Thanks to Sheena for donating the cups and saucers.

Aileen Kells



THANK YOU

Lockdown and Covid seem so far away now but a little bird told me that during lockdown Aileen Kells took small arrangements to the older members of the congregation who were delighted that the church was thinking about them. Thank you Aileen, for caring.



AFTERNOON TEAS

We had a great turn out for our summer afternoon tea. Good cheer and shared memories were very much enjoyed by all, as was the superb hospitality.

A note from one of those attending:

Hello Alan, Just a note to say how much Eileen and I enjoyed yesterday's event and a huge thank you to all who made it possible. It was great for us to meet up again with people we had not seen for some time. Warmest regards, Alan Thomson.



THOSE WE HAVE **LOST**

- Robert Goldsmith - 09/5/25
- Catherine Robertson - 15/5/25
- Dennis Hay - 15/6/25
- Brenda McConkey - 16/6/25
- Ellen Gibson - 16.7.25
- Alison Mackenzie - 23.08.25

Plus two members whose deaths have only now been made known to us but who we hold in our hearts:

- John Allan - 26.2.23
- Finlay Mackenzie - 3.9.24

A **CUPPA** AND A **CHAT**

This is a happy group who gather between 10.15 and 11.30am in The Lounge at Laura Fergusson Court on the first Monday of each month (with permission from Blackwood Housing Group at Laura Fergusson Court). An opportunity is provided to any residents and friends of Craigsbank church to join together for a cuppa and chat in a social atmosphere.

If you feel like coming along to make new friends and enjoy a bit of home baking, please feel free to accept this wee article as an invitation and come along to join us.

Further details from the Church Office.

Anne, Penny and Christine



Wonder zone KIDS CLUB

From the 4 – 8 August, a team of 16 volunteers from Craigsbank and Corstorphine Old joined forces once again to provide a holiday club for children from P1-P7.

What a fabulous week we had wondering about God's World. We did lots of science experiments, crafts, played noisy games and learned about the part God plays in creating us and the world that we live in.

Over the week we welcomed 26 children and families and we look forward to welcoming them back on Friday 5 September for a Family Fun Evening!

It was a real privilege and a pleasure to work with the children and the families who came along and we look forward to continuing this work together over the coming months.

Elaine Wood



FIND BEAUTY IN THE WORLD

‘The best revolutions are prompted not by the politics of envy, but by the politics of joy, the passionate ambition to include everyone in the feast of life. The best socialists are the champagne socialists, the ones who enjoy life and want everyone else to enjoy it more abundantly. On Judgement Day, God is going to challenge us about why we did not more enjoy the life we had been given and share the joy of it with others. Our vocation today is to continue to be people to whom and through whom that can happen. It is our calling to deny the false politics of fundamentalism and secularism, and go on defiantly expressing the unities of flesh and spirit, mind and mystery, tradition and reason, scripture and experience, not deny them by allowing ourselves to be lured into the seductive dualisms that separate God and nature. There is no separation, except in our own heads, our own divided consciousness.’

Richard Holloway, *On Reflection: Looking for Life's Meaning*



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**

Andy's Man Club is a man's suicide prevention charity offering peer to peer support groups. Gyle Community Space, Mondays 7pm

**Phone: 478 7784
www.andysmanclub.co.uk**

CHURCH INFORMATION

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Office hours:

Monday and Tuesday at East Craigs Centre 9am-12pm

Thursday and Friday at Craigsbank Centre 9am-12pm

www.facebook.com/CraigsbankChurch

YouTube Channel for videos

www.youtube.com/@craigsbankchurch

This QR code will take you to the YouTube website



For more information visit our website

www.craigsbankchurch.org.uk

Many thanks to all who have contributed articles and photographs for this issue.

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