

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 Life



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

**Easter
2025**

DATES FOR YOUR **DIARY**

Easter 2025

April

- Sunday 13 Palm Sunday service, East Craigs Church Centre, 10.30am
- Thursday 17 Maundy Thursday Communion, East Craigs Church Centre, 7.00pm
- Friday 18 Good Friday Service, Craigsbank Church, 7.00pm
Bringing together all the churches in the greater Corstorphine area. For those who want to participate in a public procession, the carrying of the cross starts at St Ninians Church at 6.30pm. Join us to provide a warm welcome at this important event.
- Sunday 20 Easter Morning Service, Old Parish Church, 10.30am
- Sunday 27 East Craigs Church Centre, 10.30am

Please note that an information session on the process of union will be announced shortly.

Please keep an eye on the website and on *Westoverland* for further news and details of services beyond April.

www.craigsbankchurch.org.uk





MINISTER'S LETTER

Planting Hope: Why Our Church Should Grow with Our City




As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ this Easter, we are reminded that the message of new life is not just for us, but for the world around us. With the planned expansion of more than 11,000 new residences west of Maybury Road – including four new schools – we have a unique opportunity to plant a new church where currently there is none. As an established congregation, we can be part of shaping this new community with an appreciation of Christian values.

You might be wondering ‘Why should a new church community be established if there are already many churches in Corstorphine?’ Here are briefly a few key reasons why this is a calling and opportunity we should embrace.

At present, this rapidly expanding part of the city has **no established churches beyond Maybury**. If we act now, we can ensure a Christian presence from the beginning, meeting people where they are and making sure the church and Christian witness are woven into the fabric of the new community. Rather than waiting for people to come to us, we can proactively engage them where they are as they start to put down roots.

The thousands of new families moving into this area will be **seeking connections** and a sense of belonging. Especially within the first year of moving into a new neighbourhood. New build estates often lack established community hubs, and many residents arrive without local family or friends. A local church plant would provide a spiritual home for those looking for support, friendship, and a deeper sense of purpose.

A church plant in a new development gives us **the chance to be creative and mission-focused** in a way that is relevant to the community as it takes shape.



Whether it's through community nurturing events, café-style gatherings, house groups, or outdoor worship in green spaces, we can shape a church that meets people where they are – both spiritually and physically.

With four new schools being built in the area, there is an incredible opportunity to support families, teachers, and young people. **A new church could work alongside these schools**, offering assemblies, chaplaincy support, youth groups, parenting courses, and pastoral care.

Many new residents will face isolation, financial struggles, or the challenges of settling into a new community. A church plant can be **a hub for practical support**, offering groups for mental wellbeing, social meet-ups, and help for those in need. Partnering with local authorities and charities, we could also provide services such as befriending occasions or parents & toddlers groups, much like had been done when our own congregation started off from the 1930s onwards.

Church planting is an **exciting step of faith**, calling us to trust God and work together as followers of Jesus. It offers opportunities for service, whether through leading worship, children's ministry, hospitality, outreach, or small group leadership. A new worshipping community offers new opportunities for new leaders to take up the call to serve in and through the body of Christ. This is not just about starting a new church – it's about growing God's Kingdom in our part of Edinburgh.

As part of a presbyterian church, we support and are supported by the congregations that form the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian. **Presbytery has instructed** us through its Presbytery Mission Plan to pioneer a worshipping Christian presence in the western expansion. This means we have a formal church mandate and a promise of support by Presbytery to pioneer towards planting a church to the west of Maybury.

At Easter we think of Jesus Christ after his resurrection. Remember that after his resurrection, Jesus Christ sent his followers out in the **Great Commission** to go and make disciples of him even to the ends of the earth. The church has for two millennia been planting new worshipping communities ('churches') because it is in the very spiritual DNA of our being to do so.

As we journey through this Easter season, let's prayerfully consider how we, as a congregation, can answer this call. Over the coming months, we will continue exploring how we (as Craigsbank Church in union with the Old Parish) might take the next steps towards planting a church in and beyond the Maybury expansion area. We invite you to pray, dream, and discern together how we can bring the light of Christ to this growing part of our city.

If you are interested in being part of this exciting mission, or if you have ideas and questions, please speak to one of the church leaders. Let's step forward in faith, knowing that where God calls, He also provides!

Rev Alan Childs, March 2025

BEHOLD THE MAN




Every year, Princes Street Gardens is the setting for a play depicting the last days and hours of Christ's life. The play is a wonder to watch as it transports you to that scene so long ago and yet so fresh for Christians everywhere. New College

at the top of the Mound stands quietly in the background as if observing the Truth, played out below. Every year the amateur, local players take a different approach. It never disappoints. You'll be delighted and you'll be moved to tears.

Cutting Edge Theatre, Reg. Charity SC 03225Z. Image: Nathan Dumlaoy/Unsplash



THE EDINBURGH EASTER PLAY 2025

Saturday 19th April, 2pm, West Princes Street Gardens
Free & unticketed. For more info visit www.easterplay.org
BSL Integrated performance. Contains some violence. Find us on   



GOOD FRIDAY

by Edwin Morgan

Three o'clock. The bus lurches
round into the sun. 'D's this go –
he flops beside me – 'right along Bath Street?
– Oh tha's, tha's all right, see I've
got to get some Easter eggs for the kiddies.
I've had a wee drink, ye understand –
ye'll maybe think it's a – funny day
to be celebrating – well, no, but ye see
I wasny working, and I like to celebrate
when I'm no working – I don't say it's right
I'm no saying it's right, ye understand – ye understand?
But anyway tha's the way I look at it –
I'm no boring you, eh? – ye see today,
take today, I don't know what today's in aid of,
whether Christ was – crucified or was he –
rose fae the dead like, see what I mean?
You're an educatit man, you can tell me –
– Aye, well. There ye are. It's been seen
time and again, the working man
has nae education, he jist canny – jist
hasny got it, know what I mean,
he's jist bliddy ignorant – Christ aye,
bliddy ignorant. Well – ' The bus brakes violently,
he lunges for the stair, swings down – off,
into the sun for his Easter eggs,
on very
nearly
steady
legs.

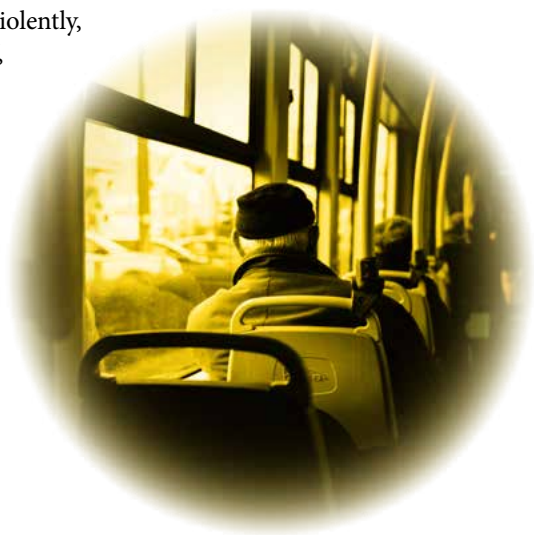
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THE DATE OF EASTER

(in Scots)

First comes Candlemas.
An syne the new meen,
The first
Tuesday aifter that
Is Fastern' Een.
That meen oot,
An the neist meen's hicht,
On the first
Sunday aifter that
Is Pess richt.

Anonymous



THE

AFRICANCHILDRENSCHOIR.COM/UBUNTU

DREAM

TOUR

Craigsbank Church

19 Craigs Bank, Edinburgh, EH12 8HD

Saturday 12 April
at 7.00 pm

Admission: Suggested
donation £10
(under 16s free)

Tickets available from
administrator@craigsbankchurch.org.uk

*There will be an opportunity to make
a donation during the concert*



African Children's Choir Alumni

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS FEATURING THE UBUNTU CHOIR

Easter 2025

THE BULLETIN

7

HAS JESUS NICKED ALL THE CHOCOLATE?

Two friends who are long-time, generous and kind foster parents stayed with us for a weekend. Their young child was on a few nights respite care and they were worn out. At one point in the weekend, one of them mentioned that he had given up chocolate for Lent. Their young charge was taking part too, but they were finding explanation of Lent tricky. They thought they had done quite well but had to go back to the beginning when their foster child turned round and said in all innocence, 'so... has Jesus nicked all the chocolate?'

They are wonderful, kind foster parents who have looked after children long term for decades. It has not been without its problems and at times it has ripped the very hearts from them. But what experience of parenthood is straightforward? The world would be much poorer without people like them.

Jesus had no biological connection to his earthly father Joseph but was raised as his kin. Listening to Krish Kandiah's Lent Talk for 2025, he touches on his own experience of fostering and how 'One minute we were strangers, the next we were family'. As foster parents that is exactly how it should be, you enter a room and meet a young stranger; you leave that room with a new member of the family. Done right, that is exactly how it is.

(And yes, chocolate has been purchased for the end of Lent!)



2025 IS THE 1700th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NICENE CREED

The Nicene Creed, produced from a gathering of 300 Christian Bishops from across the Christian world in Nicaea in AD325, was established in the year AD 325. The bishops were there to debate the nature of the Holy Trinity and find a way to unite the church and protect its future. It was agreed by the majority of the Bishops from the Western world and continues to this day to underpin the unity

of the church with Christ the Divine at its centre – belief that shapes who we are. Today this belief is shared by Christians through the words of the bible, through our own words and approaches to the world, but also through social action and self-sacrificial love.

The numbers in our church on a Sunday morning may be falling but is that all there is to ‘church’? The social action of those involved remains vibrant and welcomed and the sharing of the word and the world of the bible remains firm.

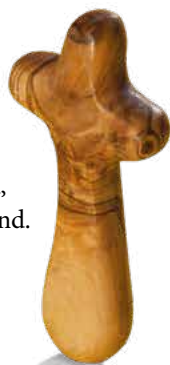
A lost fact: Bishop Nicholas (who somehow transmogrified into our Santa Claus having gifted money to a poor family to save the future of their daughter) got so enraged at the gathering that he slapped a fellow Bishop who argued that Jesus the Son was not equal to God the Father. He was thrown in jail.

The Church of Scotland believes in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and proclaims Jesus Christ crucified, risen, and glorified.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the
Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right
hand of the father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the
Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is
worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.





UNIFICATION PROCESS PROGRESS

Moving from Talking to Deciding

Kinder Conversations is the title of a book sitting on my desk as I write this. It promotes the idea of living kindly by encouraging people to ‘talk it out’ without ‘falling out’.

In many ways, this reflects my experience of the unification process between Craigsbank Church and our neighbours at the Old Parish. There has been (and still is) much to discuss – conversations that need to be worked through carefully. Yet, there is always the potential for disagreements along the way. After all, our discussions do not take place in a vacuum but within the reality of capacity constraints, expectation management, stakeholder representation, and deadlines with real-world implications – not only for us but also for our neighbouring congregations, community members, and local organisations that form part of our relational ecosystem.

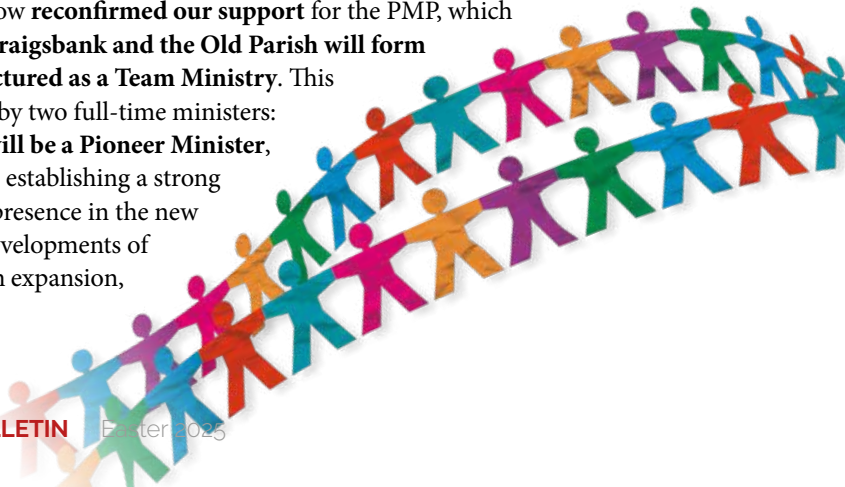
And then, of course, there is the significant and exciting challenge of church planting in the rapidly growing western expansion. This is both an opportunity and a responsibility – one that adds to the complexity of our conversations but also to their importance.

Where Are We Now?

You may be wondering where we currently stand in the unification process, especially as things seemed to have **paused for a while**. This pause was largely due to the three-way union of our neighbouring congregations at St Andrew’s, St Ninians and St Annes, not having gone as proposed in the Presbytery Mission Plan.

We have now **reconfirmed our support** for the PMP, which sets out that **Craigsbank and the Old Parish will form a Union, structured as a Team Ministry**. This will be served by two full-time ministers:

- **one post will be a Pioneer Minister**, focused on establishing a strong Christian presence in the new housing developments of the western expansion,



- **the other post will focus on Parish Ministry**, strengthening the ecclesiastical community while continuing mission outreach in the local area.

What Happens Next?

So far, the combined Steering Group has been meeting monthly, engaging in ongoing discussions. Our Kirk Sessions have been closely involved, guiding these conversations, and at times, representatives from Presbytery's Deployment Group (DG) – who oversee unification processes – have joined our discussions.

The intended next steps for our union are as follows:

1. The DG and our Kirk Sessions will review the draft Basis of Union in the coming weeks.
2. Both Sessions and both congregations will vote on the proposal with due notice.
3. The finalised proposal will then be submitted to Presbytery for approval.

Stay Involved

If you would like to speak to any of the Steering Group members, please contact our administrator, Sarah, to arrange an appointment, or feel free to have a conversation with one of us after any Sunday morning service.

For reference, our Steering Group members are: John Baker, Mike Brough, Alan Childs, Alan Kennedy, Susan Ross, Paul Spencer, and Elaine Thompson.

Your **prayers and support** remain invaluable as we seek to follow **God's will** in this process.

THOSE WE CHERISH

In recent months we have been delighted to welcome through Baptism:

- Tully Anderson 19.1.25

Those we have lost

- Jessie Tait 23.12.24
- Margaret Ashforth 27.12.24
- Hugh Hardie 10.2.25





SPRING IS IN THE AIR

In the Southern Hemisphere, spring arrives in September. It was always an exciting day marking the dawn of the warmer, brighter season with schoolchildren swapping their uniforms for ‘civilian’ clothes. We celebrated the season with bright colours and bare arms, but if you were too eager, you’d regret it because although 1 September may be Spring Day the mornings still bite. Suddenly that sleeveless dress doesn’t feel like such a good idea. We’d laugh at the goosebumps rising on our arms, our lips turning blue from the cold, pretending we weren’t shivering.

But for me, spring didn’t really start until the silkworms appeared.

Silkworm season was glorious. We loved the beautiful silk forms that those master weavers would create once they got spinning. The classroom hummed with whispered negotiations – price per worm, zebra-striped or white. I was picky. Only zebras for me. White worms had dominant genes, and if you weren’t careful, next year’s box could be full of them. There was nothing wrong with white worms. But they made me cringe.

The first time I caught my grandmother tossing a shoebox of eggs into the coal stove, I thought my heart would stop. My shoebox. My worms. My future moths. She tried to explain – there would be more than enough left, more than I could ever feed. But I was horrified, wailing through my tears that she was a murderer. She only shrugged and said, ‘Go tell the birds.’

Here in Scotland, there are no native mulberry trees, few shoeboxes brimming with tiny, wriggling silkworm miracles. But there are daffodils, and snowdrops, and geese returning to the Arctic. Spring still arrives, unbothered by whether or not we are ready.



This past winter we have weathered storms – Storm Euan among them. At times the wintery days were just too dreich and the news on the TV equally as depressing.

And yet, here we are. Though winter's cold can be brutal, there is always warmth to be found – a friend's unexpected kindness, a quiet moment before dawn with a steaming cup of coffee, the comfort of a crackling fire.

In a world full of wars and rumours of wars, famine and disasters, still, daffodils poke their heads through the earth. Babies are born. New music is written. New schools are built. New friendships are formed. Twice already, I had a braai at home enjoying the sunnier days.

I am grateful that God's love and faithfulness are as dependable as the changing of the seasons. God's goodness and mercy following us like a soft breeze. His Spirit still stirs hearts. Now, the days grow lighter. My heart is full of hope and expectation. Somewhere, in the forgotten corner of a child's closet, a shoebox waits – silent, unassuming. Inside, purple eggs lie dormant, and without any fanfare, the cycle will begin again.

Spring has come to beautiful Scotland – let our hearts be light.

ECO TEAM BULB PLANTING

In the autumn the Eco group planted bulbs which have now flowered in the East Craigs park areas. This is a glorious sign of spring and renewal, and we are much in the debt of those who gave their time (and their backs!) to bring us such pleasure. This, plus the blossom now appearing on the fruit trees planted over the last few years, brings us great hope for the months ahead.



PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT

- A Triumph

'An uplifting buddy story with a cracking track of iconic numbers, delivered in style, this Priscilla Queen of the Desert has it all. The Bohemians have once again proven their knack for professional (or near enough) polish, mounting a production that dazzles with heart' –

The Quintessential Review

Criagsbank halls and sanctuary became home to the Bohemians for their rehearsals over a number of weeks running up to their Festival Theatre run of Priscilla Queen of the Desert. Drag Queens brightened our lives both in the church and in the show. The media awarded it FOUR stars and it was well deserved. And young Finn was the hugely talented star who captured everyone's heart. Congratulations to all involved.



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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Charities number: SCO14719