


# THE STEEPLE

Craiglockhart Church

Late Summer /Autumn 2024

While the earth  
remains, seedtime  
and harvest, cold  
and heat, summer  
and winter, day  
and night, shall  
not cease.

Genesis 8:22

The logo for 'The Steeple' features a stylized white steeple with a cross on top, set against a green background.

**The  
Steeple**

Newsletter of Craiglockhart Parish Church

**Inside:**

What's happening late  
Summer / Autumn

We're Eco bronze!

# No Dolphins



Scotland is a wonderful country, filled with amazing wildlife and beautiful countryside

On the north east coast, the Moray Firth is a good site to see pods of dolphins swimming and feeding. You can go to the mouth of the river Spey and watch the osprey fishing in the river. Up in the Quiraing, north of Portree on the Isle of Skye there are golden eagles. The sunset behind the Cuillin mountains from the beach at Applecross, the peaceful seclusion of Loch Maree, the sleeping warrior which is the Isle of Arran, the mystery of standing stones at Callanish or the Ring of Brodgar.

But sometimes you can go dolphin watching and not see any dolphins. It might be raining or low mist when you are at Loch Maree or Brodgar. You may spend the day in the Quiraing and read lots of social media posts about the eagles flying over the Cuillin. Wildlife is wild, it isn't tame, it won't appear just when you

want it to. The mountains and lochs are still there, the standing stones are still standing, even if you can't see them.

Is it like this for us with God?

We've been told God is with us, we have heard the reports of God doing great things, but we aren't seeing it. We went to God's house once, years ago, and we didn't see God.

In the bible the apostle James wrote these words, "draw near to God and he will draw near to you".

You won't see an osprey in Craiglockhart Dell, you must draw near to Perthshire or Speyside. You probably won't see dolphins in the Moray Firth if you only go once and spend five minutes looking all the time thinking about where you are going to go next.

The good news is that Jesus is God with us, Emmanuel, every day not only at Christmas. If we slow down and look for him we will see him and know his presence with us. If we come to worship expecting to meet God then we shall meet him. Experiencing the presence of God isn't only about our emotions, when we read God's word in the bible his Holy Spirit is with us, whether we feel it or not. When we pray God always notices us praying, God always hears our prayers – perhaps especially when he doesn't answer us in the way we want him to answer.

Go to the Moray Firth, there are dolphins there, and when you get to see them it is magical.

Go to worship, open your bible and read it, take a moment of quiet and draw near to God. He is there, he is already waiting for you.

**Gordon Kennedy, Minister**

## Music @ Craiglockhart - My Mother the Earth': Concert by Neon Vokal

On 1 July we were delighted to welcome the Norwegian a capella group Neon Vokal to Craiglockhart. From the moment they entered, singing, from the back of the church we knew that we were experiencing something special. The programme blended Norwegian folk music, lullabies and classical a capella and spanned themes of nature, climate and human compassion. Our organist and choir leader Ingrid Hjerpseth, who is a member of the group, gave us a thrilling improvisation on a Norwegian folk tune on the organ. The group is collaborating with the Norwegian composer Frank Havrøy who has composed the music specially for their young voices. We were drawn into the wonderful musical landscape created for us by these talented and brave singers. It was a privilege to be part of this shared experience: members of the audience used the words moving, uplifting, magical and sublime to describe the experience.

A collection raised over £420 for the Edinburgh City Mission's fund for refugees. We wish Neon Vokal all success in the future and hope that they will return to Craiglockhart to share their music with us again!

Look out for all **Music@Craiglockhart** events in our Weekly Newsletter.

# News from our ECO Team



## We're Bronze!

We were delighted to welcome Rev. David Coleman, the Eco Chaplain from EcoCongregations Scotland to church on 21st April. David presented our Eco Team with the Bronze Award. Thank you to all who took part and helped us to achieve this award.

## Knit and crochet our way to a better world

We're participating in 'Hold the Red Line', a craftivism project organised by North Sea Knitters. We'll be making red 'scarves' to be joined together in a continuous Red Line as long as possible, showing that this is where we draw the line on yet more new gas and oil exploration.

The North Sea Knitters have great plans afoot to use this Red Line on various occasions in the Autumn, so there is plenty of time to make your contribution. The width of each scarf is to be 15 cm and suggested length 1.5m, symbolising the 1.5 degree global warming limit promised by world leaders at the Paris Agreement in 2015. The eventual plan is to repurpose the strips as cosy scarves.

Christine in the Eco Team will be happy to collect in the scarves and take them to wherever they need to be. So please take your knitting needles and crochet hooks and join us! **You can drop off your scarf at the**

church any Sunday morning or contact us at [office@craiglockhartchurch.org](mailto:office@craiglockhartchurch.org) to drop off a completed scarf.

**NORTH SEA KNITTERS**  
**HOLD THE RED LINE**  
**KNIT WITH US**



### ABOUT US

*Knitting as a protest symbolises the traditions we pass down through generations. We want to pass on a safe and sustainable future – one not dependent on oil and gas.*

### WHY A RED LINE?

*Inspired by the Swedish, **Sticker För Klimat** campaign, our goal is to knit or crochet a red line to represent the 1.5 degree global warming limit. **This is where we draw the line.***

### WHAT FOR?

*We will join red scarves to create a continuous line for wrapping around buildings, drawing attention to those who make decisions against the scientific consensus and the United Nations*

### KNIT WITH US

*If you'd like to knit with us, we are making strips 15cm wide. Length is optional. Use left-over yarn and make use of old garments. Perhaps crochet a border around old fabric. Feel free to embellish.*

### We plan to use the scarves at:

- The Scottish Parliament on Earth Overshoot Day (25th July).
- Edinburgh Court: when Greenpeace and Uplift challenge the legality of opening Rosebank oilfield (Autumn 2024).
- Joining Swedish and Norwegian knitters to wrap around EU building in Brussels (Autumn 2024)

## Informal Bible Study

**Starts 12 September, running every 2 weeks 10-12 noon**

A small group of folks meet fortnightly in Craiglockhart Church Centenary Hall to read and discuss passages from the Bible. It's very informal and good to share doubts and thoughts with others about what the Bible is saying to us today. All welcome, just come along or email [office@craiglockhartchurch.org](mailto:office@craiglockhartchurch.org) to find out more.



## Forge Evening

**Thursday 22nd August 7.30pm -  
Craiglockhart Church**

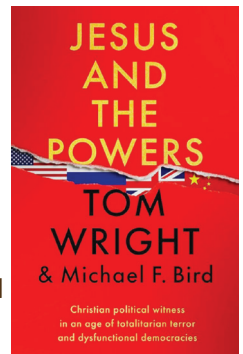
Our Mission Development Worker, Gordon McBirnie recently completed the Forge Pioneer Course. This year long course is designed to help us think about Mission in practical ways and challenges us to see how God could use us to share the Christian story with others. We hope you can join us to find out a bit more and begin a discussion of how we can do mission in our parish. For more information email [office@craiglockhartchurch.org](mailto:office@craiglockhartchurch.org)

## Book Group

Our book group will be meeting on

**Monday 19th  
August at 7.30pm**

to discuss 'Jesus and the Powers by Tom Wright. Join is for an informal chat about the book and a chance to share ideas and hear from others. All welcome. For more information email [office@craiglockhartchurch.org](mailto:office@craiglockhartchurch.org)



## Talking Jesus

Starting on **Monday 2nd September** we will be running the Talking Jesus course. We will meet for coffee and tea at 7.30pm at church and share together in watching the short films and talking about how we can share Jesus with the people we meet. There are six encouraging, video-based sessions with short films, inspirational, short testimonies, real-life examples from people who are talking Jesus, and an easy-to-follow course workbook.

This informal and practical course has been a great encouragement to others, and we have enjoyed talking together about how we have seen God give us opportunities to talk to people about Jesus. Here is what the Talking Jesus creators say about their course.

Conversations with Christians are one of the most important influences in bringing people to faith. This course will inspire you to share your faith and will give you practical suggestions to help you to be natural and relevant as you talk about Jesus with the people you meet.

**For more information contact Gordon Kennedy or Gordon McBirnie**  
[gordonkennedy@craiglockhartchurch.org](mailto:gordonkennedy@craiglockhartchurch.org)  
[gordon@craiglockhartchurch.org](mailto:gordon@craiglockhartchurch.org)

## Sunday September 1

# Produce Stall

We're looking for the usual donations of home baking, tablet, fudge, lemon curd, marmalade and jams. The latter sell very well! You may have some plums or apples at this time of year. Please hand donations into the hall before the service but be sure to come for coffee afterwards to make your purchases.



## Friday October 4

# Whist Drive at 2pm



After a very enjoyable afternoon last year, we are holding, by popular request, another Whist Drive. Put the date in your diary, if you enjoy a game of cards. Entry of £5.00 will include tea and cream scones. This is just a fun event and no real card skills are needed - just come along to enjoy an afternoon with friends. Card tables and packs of cards will be provided. We will need to know numbers by the week before so look out for a sign up sheet on the Stewardship noticeboard nearer the time.

Contact [office@craiglockhartchurch.org](mailto:office@craiglockhartchurch.org)

## Craiglockhart Photo Competition

### Sunday September 8



We had a very successful photo competition a few years ago. This time we would like to challenge you to take photos of our very own Craiglockhart. They could be buildings, nature, views - **the choice is yours**. Please print your photos 6 x 8 or 5 x 7 size and hand them in to the Church by 1 September. Mount them on a piece of card if possible with a title and put your name and contact number on the back. We look forward to seeing what you capture. If you have questions please email [kathleengrandison@gmail.com](mailto:kathleengrandison@gmail.com)



## Wednesday Evening Badminton Club

New session starts **Wednesday 18th September 2024**. We meet in the church hall on Wednesday evenings from 8pm to 10pm, for fun, relaxed, social badminton, and new members will be made very welcome. **For more information telephone Averil Sutherland (07720 049 705).**



## Craiglockhart Ladies Group

We start on **Monday 9th September** at 7.30pm in Centenary Hall and meet on the second Monday of each month until March 2025.

We have an enthusiastic committee who are currently planning an interesting programme of speakers, activities and outings for the coming session.

Since Covid times we have also been meeting informally at Saughton Park on the fourth Monday of the month from 1.30pm to enjoy a wee walk and a chat in the fresh air with friends, admiring the gardens and putting the world to rights. Sometimes we are accompanied by canine friends or grandchildren and, of course, we usually give the cafe some business!

We will be delighted to welcome new and returning members. The annual subscription of £15 covers any expenses for speakers and allows donations to be made to their nominated charities as well as to Craiglockhart Church for the use of meeting facilities. Any funds remaining are also donated to charities nominated by members. **If you have any queries, please speak to Valerie Hume (0131 443 2503 / [valerie.hume@mac.com](mailto:valerie.hume@mac.com)) who will be happy to help.**



## Saturday November 16 Film Matinee in the Church Sanctuary

2pm - 5pm including  
refreshments after the film

We will publish the name of the film nearer the time but we would welcome suggestions.

This has always been a popular way to spend a winter Saturday afternoon.



## Saturday December 7 Kirk Session Christmas Party



The Kirk Session is holding a Christmas Celebration at Craiglockhart Parish Church Halls on Saturday 7 December 2024, 2.30pm to 5.00 pm. All welcome for Afternoon Tea and Entertainment. Transport will be provided to and from the halls if required. More details to follow.

For further information about any of the above events contact [office@craiglockhartchurch.org](mailto:office@craiglockhartchurch.org)

## Look forward with Hope – a reflection on a grand day out by John Hume

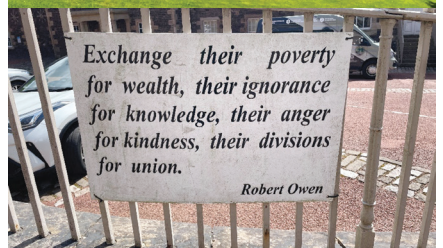
No sooner have we returned but thoughts turn to planning next year's Summer Church Outing. The 2024 adventure added New Lanark to the list of destinations enjoyed by young and old, joining Dumfries House, Loch Katrine, Drumlanrig Castle, Mount Stuart and more in recent years.

The unseasonal weather was kind to the coachload who travelled from Craiglockhart to the World Heritage Site to see and hear of the legacy of David Dale and Robert Owen and enjoy a day of friendship and fellowship. Coaches nowadays may not lend themselves quite so well to rolls of streamers fluttering from windows but the enjoyment of travelling as a group was just as obvious. Our driver was much congratulated for his skill in negotiating the challenging roads and we were glad it was him rather than us!

As well as the Mill, we visited the Schoolroom and the homes of Millworkers and Managers. Being so close to the Clyde we were able to enjoy the sights and sounds of one of the great working rivers of Scotland.

Our thanks go to Kath Grandison and the Stewardship Team who organised everything so well. We were delighted to have some friends from Polwarth join us again this year and, as our congregations journey to Union, we hope even more from the four churches will come along next time.

Speaking of Hope, she was our youngest traveller, aged 4. She has already insisted that she wants to join next year's outing. She is unsure where we will go but suggests Japan! We will need to start saving for this now. Seriously though, we do have some great ideas already but other sensible ones are welcome. Watch this space (and especially the Easter Edition of The Steeple) for details of how you can join us in Summer 2025.





## Doing good things with used stamps

Craiglockhart churchgoers must be popular folk--judging by the number of used stamps taken from letters, cards and parcels and brought to Church. 4kgs. of stamps were sent to the Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal to help with sustainable agroforestry in several parts of Africa. Many

thanks to all who contributed to this fine total. Keep them coming ! Please leave stamps in the basket by the North door or hand them to Mary MacLeod.



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK COLLECTION

### A big thank you

Thank you to all who responded to our Christian Aid Week Appeal. The total raised was £1345 to which gift aided donations will be added. Our Christian Aid notice board in the Large Hall updates news of the work Christian Aid continues to be involved in both at home and worldwide.

### Keep in touch with us

- From our website [www.craiglockhartchurch.org](http://www.craiglockhartchurch.org)
- Subscribe to our Weekly News E mail to see what's going on each week. Just add your e mail address to the subscribe button on our website Homepage.
- Follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/craiglockhartchurch>
- Insta [craiglockhart\\_parish\\_church](https://www.instagram.com/craiglockhart_parish_church)
- Go to YouTube and search for Craiglockhart Church



### Contact Details for Craiglockhart Parish Church

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