

The Church of Scotland

Craigmillar Park Church  
Newington, Edinburgh

A worshipping and caring community, following Jesus Christ



Parish Profile  
February 2010

Craigmillar Park Church of Scotland  
Scottish Charities No SC 017061  
[www.craigmillarpark.org](http://www.craigmillarpark.org)

## Craigmillar Park Church

The church is situated in Newington, a leafy suburb situated some two miles south of Princes Street, Edinburgh. Our building is situated on the main north - south bus route stretching from east end of Princes Street through Newington towards Liberton. We are adjacent to the Royal Blind School. Our congregation is an active member of Newington Churches Together, the local ecumenical association. We are part of an informal parish grouping with two nearby Church of Scotland parishes, Mayfield Salisbury and Reid Memorial, and enjoy cordial relations with the local Roman Catholic and Scottish Episcopal Church congregations. We hold regular joint services with Mayfield Salisbury and Reid Memorial and there are many close informal links between members of the various congregations.

The church building dates from 1879 and the adjacent hall was added in 1899. In 2004 we completed internal alterations - providing disabled access, new toilets and a new kitchen, and creating a small chapel under the gallery with a modern stained glass window designed and crafted by Douglas Hogg. In 2008, as part of a church roof renewal project, we have re-instated a celtic cross at the east apex of the church roof. All of the buildings are now in excellent condition and well-maintained.

To the north side of the church we enjoy a small but beautiful garden tended by volunteers from the congregation. Within the garden is a memorial to people from the parish who gave their lives in the First World War. The flower ministry is important to us; a dedicated and talented band of volunteers make the church beautiful each Sunday and ensure that the housebound and those in need regularly receive gifts of flowers.



## The parish

The parish is situated on the south side of Edinburgh. The area, shown on the attached map, is approximately one square mile and has a population

of some 3,500. Two major arterial routes run through the parish. The parish is primarily residential with all housing being privately owned or rented - there is no social housing. Most of the housing predates 1900 but there are one or two newer, high-price modern housing developments. Much of the housing consists of traditional stone-built detached and semi-detached properties but there are some flats and some of the larger properties have been sub-divided to form smaller properties.

There are many bed and breakfast businesses in the area and one or two larger hotels. There used to be a considerable number of university-owned student properties but these have mostly been sold off over the years; there are still privately-rented student flats with a transient population. Newington has a significant ethnic minority population, many of whom are Muslims.

There are a few local shops and Cameron Toll, a large shopping centre, lies just on the parish boundary. There is a private girls' school, St Margaret's, within the parish and also the Royal Blind School. Both attract pupils from all over the city and beyond. The minister has traditionally acted as chaplain to both schools. There are no residential homes for the elderly within the parish.

There is no obvious 'community centre' in the parish and it does not have a coherent separate identity. There is no café, for example, or post office or library.

### History

The present congregation is the result of a voluntary union of the former Craigmillar Park and Mayfield South congregations in 1966. There has been a tendency for ministries to be of long duration; the most recent incumbent was with us for 15 years before being called to another parish in the west of Scotland.

### The basis of appointment

The basis of appointment is Reviewable Tenure. The terms are as follows:

The Presbytery shall review the appointment five years from the date of the induction of the minister. Following such review, the Presbytery shall take a further decision, which shall be subject to the concurrence of the General Assembly's Planning and Deployment Committee, on the future arrangements for ministry to the congregation and parish of Craigmillar Park: and the options available to the Presbytery at this time shall be:

- a) to continue the appointment on a basis to be agreed at that time;
- b) to terminate the tenure of the minister on giving him or her six months' notice in writing.

At the review, the Presbytery shall consider with the Kirk Session

- a) progress made in clarifying the nature and scope of the congregation's context for mission
- b) the development of strategies for exercising mission within that context
- c) whether the life of the congregation exhibits the five purposes of the church ie worship, service, discipleship, fellowship and evangelism and whether these are in a healthy balance
- d) the extent to which there have been developed working relationships with the congregations of Reid Memorial and Mayfield Salisbury in order to achieve a coordinated approach to ministry and mission in the areas served by these parishes
- e) such other matters as may be relevant by that time.

The tenure of the previous minister of the congregation was initially Terminable Tenure but this was converted to unrestricted tenure after the first five years. The congregation is enthusiastic about the challenges ahead and confident of the future.

### The Congregation of Craigmillar Park

Like many other congregations in the Church of Scotland, our congregation is an ageing one although we do have some new young families and an active group of teenagers attending our Gallery Gang. The Roll currently stands at 266. We have a deserved reputation for being a friendly and welcoming congregation - visitors always receive a warm welcome and an invitation to share coffee after the service.





The main diet of worship is at 10.30 am each Sunday with special services during Easter week and at Christmas. The attendance normally ranges between 80 and 100. Formal Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sundays of March, June, September and December and also on Easter Sunday. In addition, informal communion services are conducted in the chapel following the normal service on the first Sunday of every month. We have experimented with monthly family services and these have proved popular.

The children of the Sunday School are present during the first part of the service on Sundays before leaving for their own activities in the hall. There is always a creche available. The Gallery Gang, for young people of secondary school age, also meets on a Sunday morning, following its own imaginative syllabus. Their regular contributions to congregational worship are much enjoyed.



Congregation members are trained and encouraged to take part in worship and contribute readings, prayers and meditations, leading worship for some special services including Guild Sunday and special services for Christian Aid, World Aids Day and other one-off events.

The church is fortunate in its organ and its organist. The organ - a three manual pipe organ dating originally from 1892 and well-maintained since then - is generally recognised to be one of the best church instruments in Edinburgh and the organist is an experienced and committed professional musician whose contribution to worship is deeply appreciated. The organist assists the Gallery Gang with their regular musical contributions to worship. The congregation uses CH4, occasionally supplemented by songs and hymns from other resources.

We employ a part-time Church Officer and Cleaner. There is no other paid regular assistance or support available to the Minister.

### Communications

The church website ([www.craigmillarpark.org](http://www.craigmillarpark.org)) was set up in 2008 and continues to develop as resources permit. We view it as a useful resource both for the congregation and for any in the wider community who may be interested in our activities. We publish a monthly newsletter, Prism, a copy of which is included in this pack. Copies are distributed to the whole parish once a year, together with a list of activities. The congregation also delivers a Christmas card and Easter card to every home in the parish, with details of special services and events and an invitation to attend.

Weekly orders of service are produced, some copies in large print.



### Governance

We use the Model Deed of Constitution.

#### Kirk Session

There are 17 active Elders (in addition to a number of retired Elders). The Kirk Session normally meets six times a year. There is a Session

Clerk and a Depute Session Clerk. The Session Clerk is authorised to moderate meetings of the Kirk Session if required. The Session has four Goal Groups, charged with taking forward the agreed goals of the congregation. These are:

*First Goal:* To work with Reid Memorial & Mayfield Salisbury & within Newington Churches Together to develop further Christian bonds between the congregations & members.

*Second Goal:* To develop further our commitment to Christian social action through our efforts to become an eco-congregation & our support of organisations such as Blythwood Care, Christian Aid, Fresh Start & Send a Cow.

*Third Goal:* To build up further inter-generational bonds within the congregation & local community through increasing the number of family services and developing varied social & pastoral programmes.

*Fourth Goal:* To review current opportunities for Christian nurture & education of all ages in the congregation & to explore new possibilities for encouraging wider participation

We maintain a system of Elders' districts and all Elders are encouraged to visit four times a year, offering invitations to Holy Communion. Each church organisation has a designated Elder to enhance communications and ensure a degree of oversight of activities.

The Session starts its business at least twice a year with the celebration of Holy Communion and at least one meeting a year has an item of 'Session Studies'. Occasional Kirk Session conferences are held.

### Congregational Board

The Board has 24 members, 12 elders and 12 elected by the congregation. It has been traditional for it to be chaired by a member of the congregation rather than the Minister.

There are two committees, Finance and Fabric, both led by professionals in the field.

### Church activities

#### The Guild

The Guild meets every other Tuesday in the Church Hall at 2pm, with a varied programme of activities. Each year, over £1,000 is raised for

Guild projects.

#### Christian Aid

We do a parish doorstep collection for Christian Aid each year and occasionally a Soup and Roll lunch after a Sunday Service.

#### Fresh Start

We support the work of Fresh Start which helps to resettle homeless people in the community. We raise funds through coffee mornings and make donations of useful household items

#### Nativity Scene Exhibition

Every Christmas, we have a public exhibition of hundreds of nativity scenes displayed in the Church.

#### Lunch Club

The Lunch Club meets each Tuesday at 12.30pm in the Church Hall. A two course meal is provided by a rota of helpers from the congregation. It is open to anyone in the parish and currently serves around 30 people each week.

#### The Craft Group

The Craft group meets on Monday afternoons in the Session Room, sharing fellowship and craft skills in aid of various causes.

#### Parish Care

A Parish Care service is available for everyone in the parish for such things as providing lifts for hospital appointments.

#### Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal

We act as a sorting centre for Blythswood Care each November, sorting and packing some 6000 shoe boxes for distribution to the poor in India and Romania.



#### Mission partners in Thailand

We have provided financial and prayer support for the work of Mike and Jane Fucella in Thailand over many years.

#### Mary's Meals

We have recently started to support the work of Mary's Meals, helping to feed hungry schoolchildren in Malawi and elsewhere.

#### Water Aid

We have supported the work of Water Aid for several years.

#### Retired Men's Club

The Stewart House Men's Club meets in the Church Hall most Friday mornings at 10.15am, regularly attracting in excess of 30 attendees.

#### 101st Edinburgh Brownies

The Brownies meet in the Church Hall and have been helping to take care of the Church garden as well as helping at coffee mornings.

#### Church Garden

The Church garden is well maintained by our keen volunteers - there is also a vegetable garden which provides good things to eat for the Lunch Club.

#### Badminton Club

The Badminton Club meets in the Church Hall on Wednesday evenings.

In addition, we allow use of the premises to a Poetry Club, an English Language School, a dance school, a Breathe Easy group and a local choir. St Margaret's School also uses the hall for PE classes and for examinations.

We organise regular Saturday morning coffee mornings and similar fundraising events. We usually have one or two rambles each year, attracting a wide range of ages.



We would like to encourage greater community use of our premises but have so far been restricted by the difficulty of arranging access and support.

### Financial Review

Our principal source of income is derived from the givings of members whether through the Open Plate, the Weekly Freewill Offering Scheme or by regular Standing Order payments. Many of the payments are gift aided. Our income from offerings in 2009 decreased by some £4,400 (approx 5.5%), on the previous year. Other income was in line with the budget figure. There appears to be no specific reason for the decrease but there may be a knock-on effect following the translation of the former minister to another parish. We are considering a stewardship campaign. A copy of the draft accounts for 2009 is available with this pack.

### The Manse

The manse is a large, three-storey, semi-detached stone-built property, with nine apartments, situated within the parish approximately one mile from the church in a quiet, pleasant residential street. It has small mature gardens back and front and a semi-detached garage. It is of sound construction and has gas central heating. The house has been well-maintained and has recently had a modern attractive kitchen installed. Some redecoration has been carried out in anticipation of a new minister. However, the building is not well-insulated and requires some work to upgrade the bathrooms. The congregation has been giving consideration to disposing of the property and securing another which is easier to heat and maintain. We wish to take this forward in discussion and agreement with the new minister.

The manse lies within the catchment area of Liberton Primary School.



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