



THE PARISH PROFILE FOR
CRAIGMILLAR PARK WITH REID MEMORIAL CHURCHES
EDINBURGH, NOVEMBER 2017

WHO ARE WE?

We are an active, caring and welcoming community of Christians in south east Edinburgh. We witness to Christ's love in our own neighbourhoods and also play an active part in local ecumenical activities and in supporting mission work elsewhere in Edinburgh and beyond.

Under the current Presbytery Plan for Edinburgh, the congregations of Craigmillar Park and Reid Memorial have recently become linked. We are now seeking a minister to lead and inspire our two congregations and to encourage us to work more closely with each other and with Priestfield Church, also a neighbour.

We are a Reviewable Charge; we have permission to call a minister for five years and the linkage will be reviewed at the end of that period. The Basis of Reviewable Charge is available on our websites at www.craigmillarpark.org or www.reidmemorial.org.uk. Presbytery has also allocated a full-time Ministries Development post to be shared between our linked congregations and Priestfield (managed by the minister of Priestfield). It is intended that the three Kirk Sessions will meet to agree broad missional objectives and then work with Presbytery and the Ministries Council to agree a job description and start recruitment.



Choir members, Craigmillar Park



Painting railings together



Reid Memorial and parish from Blackford Hill



Coffee rota preparation

OUR TWO PARISHES

REID MEMORIAL

The parish of Reid Memorial lies in the southern inner suburbs of the city on the northern side of Blackford Hill. The housing is mainly stone built terraced and semi-detached villas, bungalows and terraced two-storey flats. The Rankins area was developed as social housing during the 1950s and 60s, much of which is now privately owned. There are a significant number of retirement flats within housing complexes.

The residential area comprises the northern half of the parish; the southern part comprises the public open space of Blackford Hill, Craigmillar Park Golf Club and the University of Edinburgh's King's Buildings. The Royal Observatory is located on Blackford Hill.

St Crispin's School for children with severe learning and autistic difficulties is the only school located within the parish bounds.

The church is easily accessible to the residential part of the parish, providing the only focal point for the community.

The parish has been estimated to be about 3,500 people, living in 1,700 houses. The population structure is similar to that of the Edinburgh area as a whole but with slightly more children, fewer students and young adults and more elderly.

There is no obvious 'community centre' in the parish, although there is a post office and popular grocery.

More details of the parish can be found in the Church of Scotland's Statistics for Mission (see http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/statistics_for_mission/parish_profiles/010080.pdf)

CRAIGMILLAR PARK

The parish is situated in Newington, on the south side of Edinburgh. The area is approximately one square mile and has a population of some 3,500 with an age distribution which is similar to that of Edinburgh as a whole. Two major arterial routes run through the parish. The area 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. The Iqra Academy, a Sunni Muslim mosque, is situated within the parish.

There are a few local shops and Cameron Toll, a large shopping centre, lies just on the parish boundary. There are two privately owned nursery schools but no other schools in or near the parish. There is a dementia care home with which the congregation has an active chaplaincy link.

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

More details of the parish can be found in the Church of Scotland's Statistics for Mission (see http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/statistics_for_mission/parish_profiles/010027.pdf)

OUR HISTORIES

REID MEMORIAL

William Crambe Reid left all his money for the building of a church in memory of his father, William Reid, who had been a businessman in the 19th century. Reid Memorial was gifted to the United Free Church of Scotland. The church is notable for its fine architecture, peaceful interior, exterior ambience and first class organ.

Since the service of Dedication was held on 3rd January 1935, Reid Memorial Church has benefited from three long ministries.

CRAIGMILLAR PARK

The present congregation is the result of a voluntary union of the former Craigmillar Park and Mayfield South congregations in 1966. The congregation was on (the then) Terminable Tenure until the late 1990s at which point Presbytery granted full status; it was then on Reviewable Tenure from 2010-2017.



Postcard of Blackford Avenue and Reid Memorial Church

OUR STRENGTHS & CHALLENGES

CRAIGMILLAR PARK

Our strengths:

- experience of change
- friendly, welcoming and generous people
- a heart for mission and service
- hard-working and committed office-bearers
- reasonably stable finances and good quality buildings

Our challenges:

- ageing congregation
- few young people and families
- discipleship
- need to focus mission activities and resources
- few in numbers

REID MEMORIAL

Our strengths:

- willingness to embrace change
- friendly, supportive family atmosphere
- attendance at Sunday services has remained stable during our prolonged vacancy
- continual and responsible preservation of the beautiful 'A' listed building and fine organ
- aid-giving congregation with stable finances
- willingly and freely give of our time and talents

Our challenges:

- ageing congregation
- few young people and families
- refreshing our discipleship
- some lack of focus on stewardship

OUR WORSHIP

For both congregations, the main diet of worship has been at 10.30 am each Sunday. The pattern for the new linked charge is under discussion at the time of writing; further details will be provided to applicants.

Formal Holy Communion is celebrated in both congregations on the first Sundays of March, June, September and December and also on Easter Sunday. In addition, informal Communion services are conducted following the normal service on the first Sunday of every month. Both have special services during Holy week and at Christmas.

Both congregations take part in regular prayer services along with Priestfield Church. We have enjoyed joint services at times in recent years.



Sunday Club members making a harvest trolley-collection for Newington Basics Bank at Reid Memorial, September 2017

CRAIGMILLAR PARK

Attendance is normally between 50 and 60. Congregation members are encouraged to take part in worship and contribute Bible readings regularly, and prayers and meditations on occasion, also 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 congregation uses CH4, occasionally supplemented by songs and hymns from other sources. An excellent small choir, St Margaret's Singers, rehearses in the church and now takes regular part in worship, supplemented by some singers from the congregation. The Singers also play a major part in our Christmas and Easter worship.

REID MEMORIAL

Attendance is normally between 80 and 90. Members of the congregation contribute Bible and other readings, and we use CH4 as our hymn-book.

One of Reid Memorial's significant assets is its organ, designed for the building by Alfred Hollins and built by Rushworth & Dreaper in 1933-34, the middle of their very best period that also saw the completion in 1939 of their magnificent instrument in the Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling. During the last 20 years, due to the tireless efforts of a previous organist to promote it through both concerts and recordings, the organ has acquired a national reputation as one of the best examples of its type. It has attracted a succession of professional players to hold the post of organist. The church choir, led by our talented organist, provides an invaluable function in leading the congregational singing, in a challenging acoustic environment.

WHAT'S ON

CRAIGMILLAR PARK (excluding hall hire activities)

Weekly

Sunday 10:30: *Morning Worship (under review)*

Monday 2:00pm: *Craft Group*

Tuesday 12:30: *Lunch Club for elderly 2:15pm (monthly): Guild*

6:00pm: *Brownies and Guides*

Wednesday 7:30pm: *Scouts*

Thursday 3:15pm (monthly): *worship at St Margaret's Care Home*

Friday 10:00: *Retired Men's Club*

Saturday 2:00pm: *Parent and Toddler Group*

Annual events and worship services

March: *World Day of Prayer*

March/April: *Holy Week ecumenical early morning services, with breakfast, Good Friday service, Easter Sunday*

October: *Harvest Sunday*

November: *Remembrance Sunday*

December: *Christmas Fair, Nativity exhibition, Service of Lessons and Carols, Watchnight service, Christmas Day family service.*



Nativity exhibition



Supporting overseas school visits

REID MEMORIAL (excluding hall hire activities)

Weekly

Sunday 10:30: *Morning Worship (under review)*

Monday 6:00pm: *Beavers, 7:00pm Cubs*

Tuesday 10:00am: *Craft and Chat*

Wednesday 10:00am: *Parent and Toddler Group, 6:15pm Brownies/Rainbows*

Thursday 2:30pm: *Thursday Club 6:00pm Senior Guides/Brownies/Rainbows*

Friday 6:00pm: *Guides*

Annual events and worship services

March: *World Day of Prayer*

March/April: *Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday service, Easter Sunday*

May: *Community Coffee Morning*

September: *Craft Fair*

October: *Harvest Sunday*

November: *Christmas Fair, Remembrance Sunday, Overseas Sunday*

December: *Nativity by Sunday Club, Service of Lessons and Carols, Watchnight service, Christmas Day family service.*



Christmas and Easter Messy Church art



OUR MISSION

(local and international)

CRAIGMILLAR PARK

- lunch club • parent and toddler group • support of local foodbanks
- care home support and chaplaincy • Fresh Start
- Bethany Care Shelter • financial support for Guild projects
- Mary's Meals • Edinburgh Direct Aid • Blythswood Care
- Christian Aid

Our main mission activity has been the hosting and organisation, in November each year, of a sorting station for the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal. With the aid of members of our own and other congregations, and of teams from a number of businesses in Edinburgh, we sort, pack and prepare for export around 7,000 shoeboxes in a two-week period. In February 2018, for the first time, the congregation will host the Bethany Care Shelter for four nights. A recent visitation of part of the parish has provided information about community needs which we will now use to inform our mission and service.



Fundraising meal



A reminder in the windows



Shoebox sorting for Blythswood Care



Street Pastor duty in the city centre

REID MEMORIAL

(local and international)

- parent and toddler group • support of local foodbanks
- Messy Church • Monthly Charity Sunday • St Crispin's School support and chaplaincy • Retirement Complex services • Fresh Start • Street Pastors • financial support for James Gillespie's High School projects
- Edinburgh Direct Aid • Blythswood Care
- Christian Aid • Fair Trade stall

OUR BUILDINGS

CRAIGMILLAR PARK

The church building dates from 1879 and the adjacent hall was added in 1899. In 2004 we completed internal alterations to provide disabled access, new toilets and a new kitchen. We also removed some pews to create a small chapel under the gallery and installed a modern stained glass panel designed and crafted by Douglas Hogg. In 2008, as part of a church roof renewal project, we 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. There are projection facilities and an effective sound system in the sanctuary. The heating is efficient. The church and hall are easily accessible by public transport.

To the north side of the church we have a beautiful small 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. We grow some of our own produce for the lunch club in a small vegetable plot.

The Hall

We have a large sunny hall which is well-used by the congregation and by various community groups throughout the week. We are in the process of replacing the seating in the hall and of upgrading the sound system. There is a vestry and a small meeting room but no office accommodation.

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 both churches 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 had a modern attractive kitchen installed seven years ago. Some redecoration has been carried out in anticipation of a new minister. The manse lies within the catchment area of Liberton Primary School and Liberton High School.

REID MEMORIAL

The church buildings date back to 1935 with the large hall, new kitchen and toilets added in 1962. The Church, small hall and kitchen were rewired and central heating installed in December 2014. All of the buildings are in excellent condition and well-maintained. Many of the maintenance tasks are performed by volunteers from the congregation e.g. painting of railings and corridors. Cabling has been installed to accommodate visual display screens in the future.

To the east side of the church there is a cloister consisting of a peaceful and beautifully maintained garden tended by a gardener and volunteers. Further gardens wrap around the church buildings. Within the grounds is a Church Officer's house that is currently rented out.

The Halls

We are fortunate in having a large bright hall where coffee is served after the Sunday service. Many and varied groups use the halls during the week and at week-ends. The hall has a stage that can be accessed from the Green Room. Other halls and rooms include: the small hall where the Sunday Club meet, the Green Room which has a small kitchen area suitable for committee meetings, and the Sanctuary. This peaceful room is used for Communion on the first Sunday of each month and Session meetings. There is a vestry but no dedicated office accommodation.

The Manse

The manse is currently let on a one-year lease with the probability of extending to five years. The incumbent of the linked charge will occupy the Craigmillar Park manse.

OUR CONSTITUTIONS

CRAIGMILLAR PARK

We use the Model Deed of Constitution but would hope to move to a Unitary Constitution under the new ministry. The Kirk Session, with 14 elders, normally meets six times a year. There is a Session Clerk and a Depute Session Clerk. We maintain a system of elders' districts and all elders are encouraged to visit four times a year, offering invitations to Holy Communion. Occasional Kirk Session conferences are held. The Session Clerk is authorised to moderate meetings of the Kirk Session if required. The Congregational Board has 18 members, 10 elders and 8 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 from those disciplines.

Staffing

Craigmillar Park employs a part-time organist. All other functions - church officer, cleaning, hall letting - are managed by teams of volunteers from the congregation.

Finance and Stewardship

The congregation is self-sustaining though we have had small deficits in some recent years. Our Ministries and Mission contribution is £49,799 for 2018. We hold reserves of some £140k, all in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust.

The congregation follows the National Stewardship Programme, on a three year cycle of time, talents and money. Money is being addressed in November and December 2017 with the help of a Stewardship Consultant from the Church Offices. The latest Annual Report and Accounts are available on the congregation's website at www.craigmillarpark.org.

Street views of Reid Memorial and Craigmillar Park

REID MEMORIAL

We use the Model Deed of Constitution but would hope to move to a Unitary Constitution under the new ministry. The Kirk Session, consisting of 15 elders and a retired minister, normally meets six times a year. There is a Session Clerk. We maintain a system of elders' districts and all elders are encouraged to visit four times a year, offering invitations to Holy Communion. The Congregational Board has 37 members, 15 elders and 22 from the congregation. It has traditionally been chaired by the Minister with minutes recorded by the Clerk to the Board. There are two committees, Finance and Fabric, both led by professionals from those disciplines.

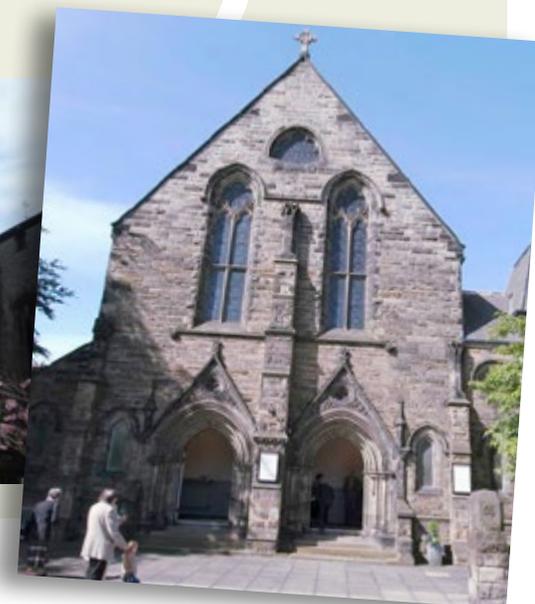
Staffing

Reid Memorial Church employs a church officer for 21 hours per week, and a cleaner. The organist is self-employed.

Finance and Stewardship

The congregation is self-sustaining. Our Ministries and Mission contribution is £58,021 for 2018. We hold reserves of some £104,500.

Focus on the Stewardship Programme has diminished during the prolonged period of vacancy.



GENERAL

CRAIGMILLAR PARK

Publicity

We have a website at www.craigmillarpark.org, currently being updated. We publish a newsletter, Prism, nine times a year and deliver it to the whole parish in September; the newsletter is available on the website. We have a Facebook page. We can display a small banner at the front of the church but need to improve the overall appearance of our notice-board and general publicity.

Pastoral Care

The Session is currently engaged in a review of pastoral care provision. At the moment, elders visit their districts four times a year and supplement this with extra visits for those in need. Lifts can be arranged to church services and other events.

Ecumenical relationships

We are active members of Newington Churches Together and support their varied activities. We host ecumenical services during Holy Week and take part in the World Day of Prayer.



Craigmillar Park organ's pipes [left], and Reid Memorial's organ console

REID MEMORIAL

Publicity

We have a new website at www.reidmemorial.org.uk that is currently being built and populated. We publish a magazine, *ReidOn...*, nine times a year, available on the website. 87 of the readers receive the magazine electronically. We have a Facebook page, and leaflets about services and activities are delivered to the whole parish at Easter, in the autumn and at Christmas.

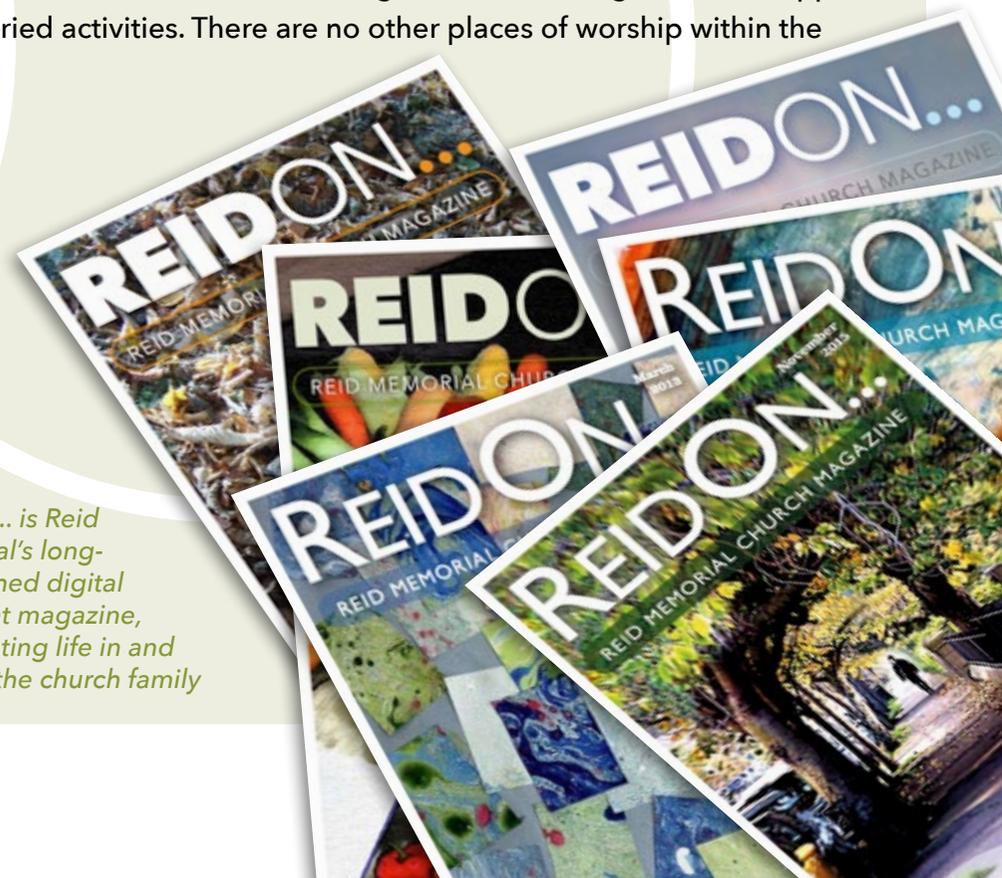
Pastoral Care

A dedicated Pastoral Care team, led by the minister, work tirelessly and effectively, sometimes outwith the parish. Lifts can be arranged to church services.

Ecumenical relationships

We are active members of Newington Churches Together and support their varied activities. There are no other places of worship within the parish.

ReidOn... is Reid Memorial's long-established digital and print magazine, highlighting life in and around the church family



VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The challenge for both congregations is to work constructively with each other and with Priestfield to discern the most effective model for church and mission in the area. The Presbytery Plan says: "Uniting the two charges provides the opportunity to create a cohesive sense of purpose for the new charge with a variety of mission shaped ministries".

CRAIGMILLAR PARK

In meetings involving the Reid, Craigmillar Park and Priestfield, we identified the following priorities:

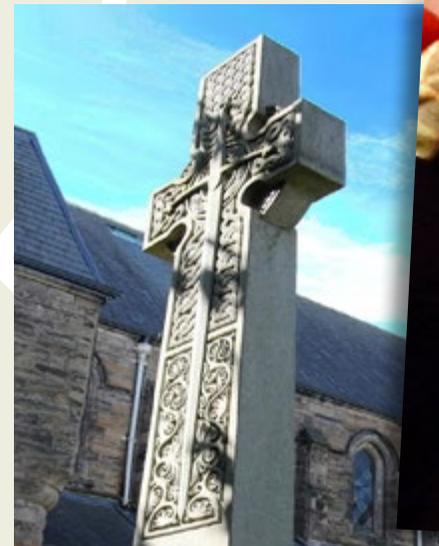
- Church should be a refreshing spiritual home, equipping people for discipleship and mission.
- worship and prayer should continue to be at the heart of congregational life
- care and outreach to older adults will be an important aspect of church life
- partnership working (and ecumenism) locally, nationally and internationally will be an essential part of our mission.

REID MEMORIAL

The challenge for the congregation is to develop a distinctive contribution to the wider area.

- to explore with neighbouring churches the sharing of resources and personnel
- to encourage and support families, young people and children

- to continue to offer and develop courses in spiritual awareness
- to maintain a varied pattern of worship with God centred, thought-provoking sermons that help the congregation to interpret and understand the message the Bible has for the 21st century
- to reinstate the National Stewardship plans
- to continue with the chaplaincy and involvement with St Crispin's school for children with severe learning and autistic issues
- a determined pursuit of using the buildings as a means of mission, and explore how to develop chaplaincy to the retirement complexes in the parish
- to empathetically support parishioners (not just members) spiritually and emotionally when they are facing real difficulties
- to put the church at the heart of the community, making an impact on both the congregation and the parish community
- to embrace new ideas that will increase the effectiveness of the Reid, i.e. breathing fresh life into the Reid without losing our general ethos.



War memorial, Craigmillar Park



Sunday Club hard at work

INVITATION TO APPLY

If you feel that God may be calling you to share your ministry with the people in Craigmillar Park linked with Reid Memorial, please feel free to contact the Interim Moderator, Rev Neil Gardner, for an informal chat.

A letter of application should be submitted, accompanied by a CV; please note that your application should include a clear statement of your reasons for applying. Applications, clearly marked 'confidential', should be sent to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee; email applications will be accepted. It is anticipated that interviews will be arranged in due course.

Both Kirk Sessions voted to 'depart' from the Church's traditional position in respect of ministers in civil partnerships or same-sex marriages. Applications from ministers in these relationships will therefore be considered.

Interim Moderator, Rev Neil Gardner

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