

The Church of Scotland
PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH

**CRAIGMILLAR PARK PARISH
CHURCH**

**LOCAL
CHURCH
REVIEW**

**OUR
CHURCH
TODAY**

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Introduction

The Local Church Review (LCR) report that follows is your report; a report on your congregation and parish written by you – office bearers, members and minister. Some things have already been completed; for instance, much of the statistical information has been completed from Presbytery records. But what we want to see most are your opinions, thoughts, concerns, hopes and aspirations.

Every parish church is unique; every story is different; you know your own story better than anyone else. That is why you are asked to write your story, tell us of church life in your parish, tell us of your worship, evangelism, service, discipleship, fellowship and so much more. Your story is vital in understanding the life of your congregation.

Before visiting your congregation the team from Presbytery will have read your report with great care and will use it as a basis for their meetings with you and for the questions they ask. The written word conveys only part of a picture and visits and dialogue add so much more. These visits are a sign that we are in partnership – local church and Presbytery and we hope that all that follows reflects togetherness. Whilst some of what is asked is factual, such as numbers and compliance with legal requirements, the overall context is mission.

We hope that the questions asked are clear and that the processes to be followed are understood. However, the leader of the visiting team and/or the Convener of Superintendence is happy to be contacted for discussion or clarification.

The leader of the visiting team is Rev Moira McDonald; Tel - 0131 476 5893; email moira-mc@live.co.uk. My own contact details are; Tel 0131 336 2036; email - rev.r.barr@blueyonder.co.uk. The Presbytery Clerk, Rev George Whyte is also available to you; Tel 0131 225 9137; email - edinburgh@cofscotland.org.uk.

The pack has been produced using MS Word and you are asked to complete and respond electronically. Do not feel constrained by the size of the response boxes. As you type the boxes will expand to accommodate your text. Responses do not need to be wordy as the visiting team for the Superintendence Committee will discuss responses with you and will ask for more information if required.

LCR is now new – under ACT 1 of the General Assembly of 2012 LCR replaces the former Quinquennial Superintendence system. What we are doing in Edinburgh builds on the previous Superintendence scheme, the Unless the Lord..... visits and reports, and links in with the Plan for Presbytery.

We look forward to receiving this completed report by ????????. ????????

Russell Barr
Convener of Superintendence

1. The story of your church

1.1 Suggested content:

Please tell us something of your church's history. Think back over the last ten years. Share the recent story of your congregation – the celebrations, the struggles, the dreams. Where have you seen God at work? How did you get where you are in church life? Where do you think you are?

The report that follows asks many questions and the answers given will tell much. Therefore, your story below need not be more than a very few paragraphs.

1.2 Your Church's Story:

The last ten years have been, for Craigmillar Park Church, a time of both achievement and challenge. We have come through a vacancy and the calling of a new minister on reviewable tenure; we have seen the numbers on the roll drop but we have also welcomed new and very active members and elders; we have undertaken some significant fabric works, improving our buildings for worship and mission; and we have faced and overcome some financial challenges. We have, throughout this period, maintained a visible presence in this area of Edinburgh, serving our community in many and varied ways and proclaiming the Good News of Christ through faithful worship and mission.

Our achievements include:

- the maintenance of a deserved reputation for friendliness and welcome. Visitors are never strangers for very long.
- the establishment of annual Alpha courses. We have gained some new members through this medium but, more importantly, it allows people to explore the meaning of faith in a supportive and questioning environment.
- the fostering of a real sense of community among the congregation. People tend to know each other and to mix freely across the generations. There is a good deal of fellowship and laughter.
- the maintenance of a varied mix of mission activities (listed elsewhere in this report). Our people are energetic in serving others and always responsive to need. We are particularly proud of our Guild activities and of the enormous effort that goes into supporting our annual Blythswood Care project.
- the creation of a beautiful chapel area within the sanctuary, furnished with Scottish crafted furniture and an impressive modern stained glass installation. We also renewed the Church roof and undertook other fabric improvements. We are currently refurbishing the organ, a splendid instrument.
- the meeting of our financial obligations to the wider Church
- increased use of the Church premises by the local community – for music and choir groups, for Guides and Brownies, for dance and exercise classes, for community council meetings and other ad hoc uses. This brings in useful income but also throws open the doors to those who do not normally come to Church.
- the recent development of a close relationship with a new dementia care home and a new private nursery in the parish.
- the establishment of cordial working relationships with neighbouring churches and in Newington Churches Together.

Our challenges have included:

- a steady decline in membership and in the numbers attending regularly. That decline appeared to halt in 2014 but we fear that the trend will remain downwards.
- the active membership is aging. There are very few younger families attending and few young people generally. Although all key positions are currently filled, it remains difficult to attract volunteers and we know that some people would like to 'retire' but feel unable to do so because of the difficulty of replacing them. Some of our people are tired. We have only two children attending regularly and a mere handful more occasionally attending – there is no Sunday School.
- financial volatility. The congregation are generous and have responded well to stewardship of money campaigns, resulting in surpluses in those years. But we have had deficits in other years, sometimes substantial ones, and we are aware that we are reliant on a small number of generous givers. Our reserves provide a useful cushion but it would be good to use those reserves for mission instead of having to hold on to them for lean years.
- an apparent lack of interest in discipleship initiatives. The congregation is faithful in attending worship and actively engaged in mission but we have been unable to encourage the same level of interest in bible study, prayer groups and other spiritual opportunities.

In summary, the congregation is in good heart but is, perhaps, more fragile than it realises.

2. Life of the congregation

Tell us about congregational life and its worship, fellowship, service, discipleship and evangelism. Please type responses in relevant box and it will expand to fit your text.

2.1 ***Worship – The shared experience of meeting God; we gather to express our need for God and to express our gratitude for all that God has done for us.***

- **Style(s) of worship – describe a typical service format;**
- **Number of weekly services; patterns of worship;**
- **Musical range; praise band; organ; soloists; etc;**
- **Use of audio visual equipment;**
- **Congregational member involvement in leading worship;**
- **Anything else you would like to tell us?**

Responses:

We normally have a single service on a Sunday, at 10.30am, lasting just over one hour. The service tends to be traditional in format but not at all stuffy in tone. The minister leads worship from the pulpit, normally opening with a Call to Worship and congregational response; congregational responses are also invited during prayer. Congregational members do the Bible readings and occasionally also lead prayers. There is always an 'informal time' aimed at the whole congregation and replacing the old Children's Address. The minister uses audio-visual aids most weeks

CH4 is used at the service, occasionally supplemented by other songs. We have an excellent organ and organist, and his playing is an important element in our worship. A choir rehearses in the church buildings and takes part in worship at Christmas and at special services at the local care home.

There are one or two children attending the service most weeks. One, an older child, is actively involved in the life of the congregation and is on the sound rota. The other, a much younger child, chooses to stay in for the service. Soft play bags are available for the use of visiting children and the congregation is used to and unfazed by the presence of babies and the very young. The glass-walled chapel allows parents to remain with their children during worship but still see and hear the service.

There are regular worship opportunities at St Margaret's Care Home, involving congregational members as well as residents and their families. These are much more informal.

The Guild leads occasional services and the Kirk Session has several times led worship for Souper Sunday, using Church of Scotland resources.

We arranged a series of visiting preachers from the Councils and Committees of the Church in the summer of 2014 as part of our Stewardship Season, welcoming people from World Mission, CrossReach and Stewardship as well as a minister from another Presbytery whose congregation had developed a lively mission to its community. Our minister is Interim Moderator at another congregation so we sometimes have pulpit supply or other arrangements for visiting preachers. We presently have a student from the International Christian College attached to the congregation and she leads aspects of worship. We take part annually in the World Day of Prayer.

We mount an annual exhibition of around 200 nativity sets at Christmas, and serve refreshments. This provides an opportunity for peaceful reflection in a busy period.

2.2 Evangelism - *The calling of every Christian to be a witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is all the ways in which we share our Good News and bring others to the point of beginning their own journey of faith.*

- **How do you help people begin their journey of faith?**
- **Communication;**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

The congregation offers at least one Alpha course each year, running over a number of weeks and including, as recommended, an evening meal and one full day with lunch. These are sometimes offered in association with other neighbouring congregations. We encourage attendance by those interested in membership, parents seeking baptism for their children and those planning to get married. There are four people attending the current course. Some of those attending have moved into membership. We try to offer a warm welcome to any visitors at Sunday services and there is always coffee afterwards.

We take part every year in a Good Friday Walk of Witness organised by Newington Churches Together. We take part in the Try Praying initiative every year, along with the Big Idea Churches (a local grouping), with a banner displayed prominently outside the church. We also take part in Back to Church Sunday every year, with all members encouraged to invite a friend or neighbour to attend a special service.

We publish a church magazine, *Prism*, nine times a year, and deliver it every month to members' homes. Copies are delivered in September to every home in the parish, accompanied by a church directory of activities and contact details. We deliver Christmas and Easter cards again to every home in the parish with details of services. We upgraded the website in 2014 and it is now an attractive, informative resource.

We make the church and its hall available for local and community activities and try to ensure that people attending such events feel welcome and receive a positive impression of local church life. We offered a computer club for older people and a four-week Chinese cookery course this year, both initiatives designed - successfully - to attract people from the wider community and not just the congregation, There are regular music concerts and, early in 2015, the congregation hosted a very successful concert and visit by the African Children's Choir.

2.3 Service - *The living out of our faith in practical ways. Jesus called us to be servants of all and this is shown to others as we care for our neighbours.*

- **What systems of Pastoral Care (elder districts, etc.) do you have?**
- **How do you respond to the needs of others in the parish and beyond?**
- **How are you involved with school or other chaplaincies?**
- **In what ways are you involved with social issues?**
- **In what ways do you work in partnership with community groups or agencies and/or mission partnerships at home or abroad?**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

We have embarked on the Tearfund Discovery Process as a way of uncovering God's purpose for us in our community. The minister and one other person have completed the Mission-Shaped Ministry course and another member is currently undertaking this course. We have identified a need for social and pastoral support for elderly single people and are developing a range of activities and opportunities for this group.

At the moment, pastoral care is largely delivered by the minister and elders, most of whom have elders' districts and visit faithfully. One district is an 'email district', mostly for younger adherents (e.g. students at university) and looked after by one of our younger elders; there is also a Facebook group. The Session gave consideration at a recent meeting to setting up a Pastoral Care team (using the resources in the Mission and Discipleship *Learn* publication to help our thinking). A special meeting is to be organised to discuss this further with those outwith the Session who might be involved in such a move.

We run a lunch club once a week, attended by (mostly) older people. Some are members but others are not; all are welcome. It offers a very reasonably-priced two-course hot meal but, more importantly, it offers fellowship and company to a group of people who mostly live alone. We are planning to run a week-long 'holiday club' for older people in the spring of 2015. It will be the first time we have offered such provision for this age group but we hope it will be popular and will again address the real need for company, stimulation and pastoral care for older people in the parish. In 2014 we ran a very successful introductory class on using computers; it attracted up to 20 people weekly, from throughout the parish. We offer a single contact point for anyone requiring practical assistance, e.g. for a lift to hospital or to Sunday worship. This will be reviewed in the light of any development of a pastoral care team. We host and support a Retired Men's Club, meeting weekly through most of the year and attracting between 20 and 30 regular attendees. We ran a four-week Chinese cookery course in late 2014 and this attracted a range of attendees from the congregation and the community.

The minister was chaplain to the Royal Blind School until the summer of 2014, when the school moved to another part of Edinburgh. There are no other schools in the parish or nearby although the minister is developing a closer relationship with a private nursery school in the parish. We have in the last six

months started a Saturday afternoon Parents and Toddlers group. We have a close pastoral relationship with a private dementia care home in the parish. The minister visits regularly and leads worship 12 times a year, including Holy Communion. Other members assist with an art class and in various other practical ways.

The congregation supports the Basics Bank organised by Newington Churches Together, collecting donations of food. It also supports the Blythwood Care Foodbank in Burdiehouse-Southhouse through a special collection of donated items at Harvest Festival.

The congregation supports many other local and international charities, including Fresh Start, Street Pastors (one of our members is a Street Pastor herself), the Cameron Toll Chaplaincy team, Glasgow the Caring City (we were the first Edinburgh congregation to support this Glasgow charity), Christian Aid (we still maintain a successful door-to-door collection), Tearfund, Tools for Self-Reliance, the Church of Scotland HIV Programme and CrossReach. The congregation acts as the sorting station for Edinburgh for the Blythwood Care shoebox appeal, processing around 7,000 shoeboxes in a very intensive two weeks' work in November each year. That work is supported by members of many other churches who give their time in three-hour shifts to help us manage a vast logistical exercise. We also get teams of volunteers from businesses such as the Royal Bank of Scotland and from the Western General Hospital. Some of the younger people from the church community return to help with the physical work associated with this exercise and it is good to see people from a mix of ages and backgrounds working so purposefully together. It therefore constitutes a major element in our mission to the community. We were fortunate to be visited in 2013 by the then Moderator of the General Assembly, who had been working with Blythwood Care, and who commended the congregation on its initiative.

We have an active Guild, one of the few left in the area, and it raises money for Guild projects. It also provides coffee morning and lunches for the congregation, both for fundraising and to offer opportunities for fellowship.

2.4 **Discipleship** - *The act of following Christ. It is about learning what it means to be a Christian as we experience life and question what we believe. The church should equip its members with "practical guidance for expressing their faith in the world during the week."*

- **How do you help people of all ages grow in their faith?
Children, Young People, new members and adults**
- **In what ways do you promote personal devotions, private prayer and opportunities to reflect on life experiences?**
- **Which resources do you use?**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

The minister takes his responsibility as the 'teaching elder' very seriously and his preaching each Sunday is clear, Bible-based and designed to help people understand and grow in faith. He provides suggestions for further reading in weekly service sheets and encourages thoughtful reflection, for example at special services for Ash Wednesday and during Lent and Advent.

The Kirk Session uses *Learn*, the new M&D resource on the eldership, having decided to focus on a chapter at every meeting in 2015, with time dedicated to small group discussion. Our Alpha courses are open to everyone and a number of longstanding members have taken advantage of the opportunity to attend and discuss their faith.

The congregation takes part in Try Praying every year, supporting the initiative financially as well as encouraging prayer among the congregation.

There are only two children regularly attending church (almost every week) but there are one or two other younger children who also attend, albeit less frequently; the minister makes a point of including any visiting children in the all-age address when they do attend.

The minister offered opportunities for Bible study based on stewardship themes as part of the 2014 Stewardship Season. We held a stewardship conference as part of that season, led by the Church's Head of Stewardship, and that too included prayer and worship.

We offered a prayer vigil in the evening of the Scottish Referendum in September 2014 and members regularly take part in NCT prayer events. We encourage members to take part in NCT Lent Study groups.

2.5 Fellowship - *The opportunity of experiencing God's grace and love in and through God's people; this is about people really getting to know each other.*

- **How do you build relationships within the church?**
- **How do you encourage people to meet outwith worship?**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

The fellowship among the congregation is strong and there is real friendship and support. Opportunities include:

- Coffee after every service
- Soup lunches after Sunday worship (approx. 4 times a year)
- Coffee mornings (approx. 6 a year)
- Craft Group
- Flower ministry
- Lunch Club
- The Guild
- Gardening team
- Cleaning team
- Tea parties (in a member's home)
- Occasional Burns Suppers and other social events.

3. Congregation and Wider Church

3.1 Wider church – *Your relationships and involvement with Presbytery, central church structures and other denominations.*

- **How would you describe your involvement with Presbytery?**
- **Tell us about any relationships with Councils (and/or their committees) of the General Assembly.**
- **Tell us about any ecumenical relationships.**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**
- **Tell us about any partnerships you have with the World Church**
- **Tell us about your involvement with organisations like Christian Aid.**

Responses:

The minister and presbytery elder are faithful attenders and both play an active part in Presbytery committees. There is a report on Presbytery meetings at every Kirk Session. We have a good working relationship with neighbouring parishes – Reid Memorial, Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield – and there are joint services twice a year with Reid Memorial. We also have a good working

relationship with churches in south-east Edinburgh and undertake joint activities. We have traditionally supported Bristo Craigmillar with an annual donation at Christmas to help with their outreach activities; the Guild also supports that congregation financially, partly using interest from a bequest for this purpose.

The minister is a member of a national Church committee. Our session clerk is an employee in the Church Offices and keeps the Kirk Session and the congregation informed of General Assembly and Council and Committee work. We have congregational representatives for World Mission, Church and Society and Social Care. The minister was recently invited to lead a week's devotions for CrossReach staff at Charis House. Several of our members assist with stewarding at the General Assembly and another has been involved as a volunteer with the Clerks' office and the Communications Department. Two of our members have been Presbytery of Edinburgh and NYA Youth Representatives at the General Assembly. Members have attended Heart and Soul although we have not had any formal presence.

We are active members of Newington Churches Together – the minister is the current chairman – and we take part in their various activities and worship opportunities, including Lent study groups, the Good Friday Walk of Witness and prayer for the Cameron Toll Chaplaincy. We annually host the NCT Holy Week prayers and breakfasts, with each service led by someone from an NCT church, including the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Methodists. In 2014, we allowed the Redeemed Christian Church of God (King of Glory) to use the hall and sanctuary for a weekend meeting and the minister helped lead worship; we valued this opportunity to develop a closer relationship with a non-mainstream church group. Our current placement student from ICC is a member of the Apostolic Faith Mission. One of our elders works for ACTS, is a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and a member of the Church of Scotland Ecumenical Relations Committee; she keeps the Session informed of other ecumenical initiatives. A number of our members and adherents come from different Christian backgrounds – Lutheran, Methodist, Church of England and Roman Catholic – and this enriches the mix. The congregation has no direct links with partner churches overseas. We maintain active support for Christian Aid with a door-to-door collection in the parish and an annual soup lunch. We regularly pray for churches and Christians overseas, particularly those facing challenges and danger.

4. Resources – people, buildings, money

4.1 Human Resources – *People helping to make your mission statement a reality.*

- **Who are your ministry team members?**
- **What support is there for your minister/ministry team including admin support?**
- **How is training and development (in-service training, study leave, staff appraisals, etc.) supported?**
- **With your present staffing and volunteers are you resourced to achieve the developments highlighted in this report?**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

The minister is supported by a part-time organist and currently by a ministry student on placement. The session clerk and other elders assist with elements of worship and leadership. One of the elders is Guild President and leads the worship and ministry of that active group of members.

The minister has access to a Presbytery chaplain and an active local ministers' group; he also receives mentoring support and advice from the experienced nearby minister who hosted his probationary placement. There is no dedicated admin support although the various administrative functions operate more or less smoothly without a need for the minister to be actively involved.

The minister has not been eligible for study leave as yet. He has, however, attended Ministries conferences, the Mission-Shaped Ministry course, a Discovery Process course, Presbytery training events and other shorter development events, for example on school chaplaincy. Office-bearers and elders are encouraged also to attend relevant events.

It sometimes feels like a struggle to fill all of the key positions but we have managed so far although the burden of work tends to fall on the shoulders of a few rather than the many. Nonetheless, we have ordained six new elders in the last few years and we have acquired some active and committed new members. We are not currently resourced to greatly expand our mission activities and this would need to be a consideration as we develop our goals and objectives.

4.2 Buildings – Sanctuary, halls, manse, church officer's house, etc.

- **Describe your church buildings**
- **What is their state of repair?**
- **Describe their suitability for purpose?**
- **Do you have a five year Property maintenance plan?**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

The church building dates from 1879 and the adjacent hall was added in 1899; both are in relatively good condition for their age. The church roof was replaced in 2009 and we know that the hall roof also now needs replacing. Some minor decoration works are outstanding.

In 2004 we completed internal alterations, providing access for disabled people, new toilets and a new kitchen, and creating a small chapel under the gallery with a new stained glass window designed and crafted by Douglas Hogg. In 2009, as part of a church roof renewal project, we re-instated a Celtic cross at the east apex of the church roof. To the north side of the church we have a small, but beautiful, garden tended by volunteers from the congregation. We have vegetable and fruit plots and grow some produce for the lunch club. The Brownies help with some of the gardening, especially with the filling of the many flower tubs and troughs. Within the garden is a memorial to people from the parish who gave their lives in the First World War. In 2014, we used a small legacy to build a bench on hardstanding in the garden, and planted tubs around it, in the hope that members of the community would use it – and we do see it being used.

The manse is a traditional Edinburgh stone-built semi-detached villa in good condition.

The buildings are fit for their current purposes but would need some alterations if we wished to undertake new ventures such as a church café. We have a five-year maintenance plan in place; we adopt the quinquennial buildings report and feed in the issues from our own annual inspections.

4.3 Money – Income, reserves, stewardship, etc.

- **Comment on your ability to finance all you are currently doing.**
- **How is the work of your church financed – is it mainly from givings or is it dependent on income from hall lettings, legacy interest, etc?**

- **Are you over-dependent on givings from any particular age group or individuals?**
- **When did you last address stewardship, what stewardship programme are you using and when will stewardship next be addressed?**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

In 2014, after a number of years running significant deficits, we embarked on a programme to try and eliminate our deficit by cutting costs and increasing income. After our Church Officer retired at the end of 2013, we replaced him with a team of volunteers. We also replaced our contract cleaners with a team of volunteers. We undertook a financial stewardship season in June which resulted in a significant increase in offerings and we ended the year with a surplus of £8,610. We have healthy reserves of £160,367.

Our total ordinary general income for 2014 was £90,699 – 84.6% from offerings, 4.8% from investment income, 2.0% from contributions from congregational organisation, 6.8% from use of premises by outside agencies, 1.7% from weddings and funerals and 0.1% from legacies.

Giving per member varies widely, with a number of members giving very generously – they tend to be (but not exclusively) older members. We have increased the number giving by standing order and a number of members increased their givings in 2014 in response to the stewardship campaign.

Stewardship is addressed annually over a three year cycle of finance, time and talents. We addressed financial stewardship in 2014 using the Giving In Grace programme with the assistance of a stewardship advisor from the Church of Scotland. In 2014 we looked at the wider work of the Church with a number of speakers including speakers from CrossReach and World Mission. Financial stewardship will be addressed again in 2017.

5. Presbytery Plan

5.1 Presbytery Plan – A Plan for Presbytery 2012-2022.

- **The Plan for Presbytery interim steps for your congregation and forward conclusions are as follows:**



[Craigmillar Park](#)

History

The church building dates from 1879 and the adjacent hall was added in 1899. In 1966 the congregation united with the neighbouring Craigmillar Park in the Mayfield South building.

The Parish

The parish of Craigmillar Park lies some 1 ¾ miles to the south east of the city centre astride the A701 (Craigmillar Park) and is a traditional Edinburgh inner residential suburb of the late 19th century and comprises principally stone built villas. The quality of its buildings has been recognised in the designation of the Craigmillar Park and Waverley Park Conservation areas.

Education in the parish is provided by Prestonfield, Liberton, Sciennes and Preston Street Primary Schools and Liberton and James Gillespie's High Schools, none of which are located within the parish. The Royal Blind School (Craigmillar Park Campus) is located within the parish. The University of Edinburgh's King's Buildings campus and the Cameron Toll shopping centre lie immediately adjacent to the parish.

The major route of Mayfield Gardens and Craigmillar Park also host a number of small hotels and guest houses.

In 2008 the parish population was estimated to be 4,600 people living in some 1,900 houses. The population structure is very similar to the pattern for the city but with fewer young adult workers (25 to 44 years) balanced by more mature adult workers (45 to 64 years). The average age of the parish population is therefore only slightly older than that for the city as a whole.

Mission

With no natural community, the challenge for Craigmillar Park is to discover a distinctive contribution to the witness of the Church in the broad Newington area. Its mission priorities should be:

- *a determined effort to understand and reach the residential community, and*
- *develop a close working relationship with neighbouring congregations with a view to sharing in the common witness.*

Presbytery Plan:

At the Review of Tenure in 2015 the Presbytery will need to decide on future ministry patterns.

- **The mission priorities and suggested partnerships are above:**
- **How do you see the above being worked out?**
- **Anything else you would like to say?**

Responses:

Our first challenge was to understand our local community in order to be able to serve it better. We embarked on the Discovery Process, using the Statistics for Mission and our own knowledge of the parish in order to identify the needs. One of the problems is the absence of a clear parish focus – there is no school, community centre, shopping centre, pub or even any obvious geographical feature such as a park or crossroads. However, we identified the need to reach out more to older people. Actions arising from this process include:

- Holiday Club for older people to be run in April 2015 (for the first time)
- Developing relationships with the care home and nursery
- Parent and toddler group
- Parish visitation (to be undertaken in late 2015)
- Support for mission initiatives: Blythswood Care, Christian Aid, Guild projects
- Community use of hall: parties, music groups, Brownies, Guides, dance classes, Craigmillar Park Residents' Association
- Interfaith relations: we approached the local mosque and Jewish community seeking a meeting but both declined, for different reasons.

The other challenge was to develop further our friendly and constructive working relationship with Reid Memorial and also Priestfield. We also have such a relationship with Mayfield Salisbury, which is our nearest Church of Scotland neighbour. We have joint early morning Holy Week services and breakfasts; we are active members of Newington Churches Together; we have joint services with Reid Memorial twice a year, and the ministers regularly cover for each other. We have just started to discuss with Priestfield and Reid Memorial whether the current tenure arrangements and the forthcoming vacancy in the area present opportunities for closer working,

6. Communication

6.1 Communication Strategy – Tell us about your communication strategy/plan including website use:

- **How do you promote your vision and mission?**
- **How do you keep in touch with members?**
- **How do you encourage members to keep in touch with one another?**
- **How do you advertise your church and its activities?**
- **Anything else you would like to tell say?**

Responses:

The primary vehicle for communication of vision and mission is Sunday worship. We also use:

- *Prism*, the monthly newsletter
- the website, www.craigmillarpark.org
- district elders' visits
- notice board and leaflets
- Christmas and Easter cards to the parish
- Banners
- weekly service sheet
- communication with other churches

