

The Church of Scotland  
**PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH**

**CRAIGMILLAR PARK PARISH  
CHURCH**

**LOCAL  
CHURCH  
REVIEW  
ACTION  
PLAN**

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# 1. Congregational Action Plan

In all that we do here in Presbytery, mission is important to us. We want you to explore together under each heading aims and objectives for your congregation over a five year period. Once you have set your aims and objectives, tell us how these might be tackled and the timeframe for achieving them. It is important that you look at the resources required and any help you may need, this could be from neighbouring congregations, or Presbytery. This is a five year plan and we would expect to see a programme spanning this.

In the planning, we would like you to think backwards. We would like you to think not about where you are now and where you might go, but about where you would like to be, and how you might get there.

The Local Church Review is first and foremost, a local review. It is to do with your parish and the people you serve, not about the sort of church you think you ought to be, but about the sort of church your area needs. As a Presbytery, it helps us explore together how every congregation does the same things in their own way. The LCR process helps us to see how congregations achieve their aims and objectives, and this report is a first step on a journey, and in some areas, the continuation of a journey in other plans.

A plan of thought and action – where would you like to be, and how might you get there?

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## 1.1 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Worship** initiatives.

Response:

1. Make Bible readings and sermons available to those unable to attend church.
  - a. Make audio recordings available on the website
  - b. Make the service available in CD format.
2. Improve the sound made during singing:
  - a. Invite local choir in to lead us periodically.
  - b. Encourage people to sit closer together to create a richer sound.
  - c. Form audiovisual team to database and project the words of hymns to encourage people to sing out.
3. Pilot a short service before the weekly lunch club.

## 1.2 Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Evangelism** initiatives.

Response:

1. Continue to develop the Parent and Toddler Group aiming at starting Messy Church.
2. Encourage worshippers to let the flower team know of new people who move into the parish so flowers, a copy of prism and a welcome card can be delivered to welcome them and tell them about the church.
3. Set up a discussion group for 4 weeks once a year for the next 3 years to discuss religious and spiritual themes in films.

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**1.3** Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Service** initiatives.

Response:

1. Pilot a cafe in the church one morning a week for a trial period.
2. Develop our involvement in Edinburgh Churches for Sanctuary.
3. Appoint a link person for Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland awareness and initiatives.

**1.4** Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Discipleship** initiatives.

Response:

1. Appoint someone to run the bookstall periodically after the service.
2. Plan a retreat for the elders and congregation in year 1 and year 2.
3. Develop more targeted discipleship initiatives as a result of this:  
e.g. small house groups, prayer groups.

**1.5** Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new **Fellowship** initiatives.

Response:

1. Reinstate the social committee of the Board to look at fellowship initiatives.
2. Reinstate the summer fair.

**1.6** Tell us how you plan to explore and develop your **relationships with the wider church**.

Response:

1. Explore ways in which we can communicate better within Newington Churches Together.
2. Set up a local network of Church Council reps (World Mission, Church & Society, CrossReach) to share ideas and plan joint initiatives.

**1.7** Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new ways to equip your **ministry team** and encourage more people to take up **leadership roles**.

Response:

*Acts chapter 6 speaks about the early church reapportioning some responsibilities better to achieve its core mission.*

1. Develop a pastoral care team and appoint a pastoral care coordinator.
2. Expand the church welcome teams (not just elders / board members).
3. Encourage and train people in leadership
  - a. in leading aspects of worship
  - b. possibly using "Huddles" (already being tested by the minister)

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**1.8** Tell us how you plan to explore and develop new initiatives to maintain and enhance your **property/properties** so that they better support the delivery of your mission and vision.

Response:

1. Improve the church hall decoration and facilities to make it more attractive for community use.
2. Improve the heating system in the chapel and the session room.

**1.9** Tell us what plans you have to promote **stewardship**.

Response.

1. Continue the three-year stewardship cycle.
2. Continue to make the church financially viable.

**1.10** Tell us what plans you have in support of the **Plan for Presbytery**.

Response:

*Getting to know the parish better.*

1. Visit guest houses and the local Travelodge and ask to leave welcome posters about our services for guests.
2. Put Craigmillar Park Church on Streetlife.com.
3. Develop a segmented parish visitation annually.

*Better coordinate work with neighbouring churches:*

1. Develop shared roles and goals with the local churches.
2. *We are keen to set goals here but would value advice from the visiting LCR team.*

**1.11** Tell us what plans you have to sustain and improve how you **communicate**.

Response:

1. Set up a Communications Group who would:
  - a. Improve our use of social media.
  - b. Advertise our Alpha courses at King's Buildings and local student accommodation on an annual basis at the beginning of the academic year.
  - c. Replace the notice boards at the front of the church.
  - d. Improve the external appearance of the church in liaison with CARTA and local planning authority, as appropriate.

Any other **actions/goals/aims** you would like to share?

Response:

Review our mission statement.

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