



CRAIGOWL CHURCH

Loving Jesus • Loving our community

Magazine: April 2025

EXCITED



THANKS



MORE PROMISED



As we head towards Easter, please take time to read through this magazine. Give thanks for all that is being experienced here in Craigowl Church and be excited about what is still to come.

We aren't complacent, but it's good to read that our various groups are doing well. We can be encouraged by the indication that reaching out through our digital media offering is getting a positive reaction and can be heartened by the fact that our financial situation is stable. Alongside all of this, we are thankful for those who lead our weekly worship services and for the encouragement and support received from our Interim Moderator. Of course, there are challenges ahead, but for the moment let's be thankful and remain heartened by the fact that God has promised much more for us and the community which we serve in His name.

Easter @ Craigowl Church

Palm Sunday: 11am, 13th April
...the triumphant entry to Jerusalem

Maundy Thursday: 7pm, 17th April
...we celebrate Communion

Good Friday: 7pm, 18th April....Remembering!

Easter Sunday: 11am, 20th April.....HE IS RISEN!



If you are receiving a paper copy of this magazine, please consider signing up to getting church communications via email. Just drop us an email - info@craigowlchurch.org.uk and we will add your detail to our mailing list.



Most of us will have heard of Christian Aid and at Craigowl Church we want to support this organisation through participation in what is referred to as Christian Aid Week, which this year is designated as 11th - 17th May. Here is some information which we hope helps as you consider supporting the work of this organisation.

AIMS: We stand together. For dignity. For equality. For justice.

- Everyone is equal in the sight of God. Yet we live in a world where poverty still persists.
- Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. But together we have the power to transform lives.
- For over 70 years, we've been standing with the poorest of our neighbours. We work in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice.
- Together we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.
- Our voices and actions are stronger together. And with your help, we can make an even bigger difference.

Together with supporters and partners, Christian Aid endeavours to:

- expose poverty throughout the world
- help in practical ways to end it
- highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.
- do all of this by seeking to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ, who commanded his followers to love their neighbour and work for a better world.

Our response?

Prior to 11th May, Christian Aid envelopes will be available for those who might like to support the work of Christian Aid with a financial donation. In addition, on Sunday 11th May there will be an opportunity for those not wishing to utilise the 'envelopes' to donate. If you would like to contribute to the work of Christian Aid but are not able to collect or return a giving envelope, please contact Barbara Chalmers on 01382 825511 and she will arrange to deliver to you and subsequently collect a giving envelope.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE WORK OF CHRISTIAN AID – [CLICK HERE](#)



**A MESSAGE FROM OUR
INTERIM MODERATOR**
Rev Dr Jean Kirkwood

Dear friend,

As we approach the 9th month of the new congregation of Craigowl, I thought I'd take a moment to reflect on the months that have passed so quickly.

I must say that from my perspective, as your Interim Moderator, the Union feels a little easier now than it did then. I believe this is due, in the most part, to the efforts and goodwill of many people and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all. I'm grateful to those who have worked hard at making this a place where everyone feels it is, or at least could be, their spiritual home. I am grateful to those who have embraced a new style of worship and have made an effort to get to know the person now sitting beside them. I'm grateful to the worship leaders and the musicians who have faithfully provided a service each Sunday. I'm grateful to the elders, and especially the office bearers, who have done so much work behind the scenes in bringing us to where we are now. Within this I'm grateful for the grace the elders have shown one another in discussions and decision making. I'm grateful to the encouragers and the pray-ers. I'm grateful to the Nominating Committee for their enthusiasm and their efforts which we are all hoping and praying will bear good fruit in due course. And most of all, I'm grateful to God who sent Jesus into the world to show us the way especially when we don't know where we are going.

On Good Friday we will remember how his love for the world led him to the cross and that when all seemed dead and gone, he rose again from the grave. It is no coincidence that we celebrate Easter in springtime (in the northern hemisphere) because this is the time of year



when new life abounds within nature. Bulbs buried in the ground produce their beautiful flowers. Birds and animals give birth to their young and trees begin to bud with the promise of summer. As we see these things with our eyes we can be reminded that Christ who was dead and buried in the ground, is alive and reigns forevermore. The empty tomb discovered by the

women on Easter morning proclaimed that death is not the end; it is only a new beginning.

Last July, many within the original congregations were mourning the end of their beloved church but now I hope you are seeing evidence of this new life within the congregation of Craigowl and I hope that one day you will be able to look back on this time of change and say that God was with you through it all.

Wishing you a very happy and blessed Easter.

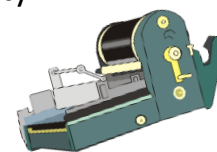
Yours in Christ,

Jean

Go and make disciples.....in the digital age!

Gillian MacDonald was asked by the Kirk Session to develop our social media output. In this article she gives an encouraging update.

My dad tells me that in the 'olden' days, communication with the community was a 'Gestetener' printed circular necessitating lots of people trudging through the streets, often in the pouring rain, pushing these through letter boxes. Maybe, like me, you have no idea what the 'Gestetener' process involved.....I understand that it was messy, time consuming and more often than not, the process broke down.



How times have changed! In today's digital age, various forms of media, such as social media (Facebook, Instagram, X), websites, podcasts and a variety of video platforms, has emerged as a powerful tool for spreading the good news of the gospel. Christians have the remarkable opportunity to promote the message of Christ and engage with individuals on a vast scale. As a church, that presents a challenge and an opportunity.

Here at Craigowl, our digital outreach is in its infancy and some might feel that engaging with this is not for them. Like it or not, we now live in a digital environment and encouragingly, there is emerging some evidence that even the little things which we do is having an impact. Here is just one example.

Over the period of Lent, on our Facebook and Instagram accounts, we have been publishing a mix of short videos, some simple photos with reflective bible verses, some prayers of encouragement and opportunities to have personal reflection whilst listening to new Christian songs. Across the first 20 days of Lent we know that on at least 10,129 occasions, people out there in our community and beyond have at some point viewed what we are publishing. That's 10,129 occasions when we as Craigowl Church have been able to proclaim the 'Good News' and have it heard. Of course, we don't know the full impact of this, but from some comments received it is evident that several of those engaging with our digital outreach have been encouraged and comforted. We know that seeds are being sown.

Can we do better? Of course we can! Whilst we can continue to make content available across our digital output, we need more of you to share it, especially from our Facebook and Instagram platforms. It's simple - just click the 'Share' icon and in most instances follow this up by clicking the SHARE NOW icon.

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'Go and make disciples.....' was the great commission which Jesus left. It's an instruction for all of us. In the evolving world of communication and as part of Craigowl Church, maybe you could consider sowing some seeds by sharing some of our digital output.

If you are not already following us on Facebook or Instagram, please do so. Anyone can view our Facebook page, although you will only get posts from us automatically if you are 'following' us. If you are not on Facebook, scan the QR code below and have a look at some of what has been distributed to date over the Lent period. To engage with Instagram you need to have the Instagram app on your device.

If you can't quite get the hang of digitally engaging with us, speak to me and I'll try to help.



Property Update

The former Strathmartine manse has been sold.

The manse of Craigowl Church, which had been let, is now back in our possession and some general maintenance work is being undertaken in order to make it ready for a new minister.

The Strathmartine Church complex is empty of contents and all of the action required to facilitate it being advertised for sale is nearing completion. It's hoped that in the very near future, The General Trustees will publish the relevant marketing material.

Over the past 3-4 weeks there has again been some issues with anti-social behaviour in the area which has led to some damage at the property. Youths have tried to force an entry into the Living Rooms and some fire raising within the grounds necessitating the attendance of the Fire Brigade took place. Whilst the damage has not been significant, the impact of youths causing disruption and damage is concerning. This is not a problem solely affecting church, the wider area including the Ardler Complex, schools and outdoor areas have similarly sustained some damage. In liaison with the police, community wardens and the local authorities Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, we are doing what we can to resolve issues which arise.

Spring brings around the need to maintain the church grounds. If you would like to help with some grass cutting or some general gardening and tidying, please speak with Gordon Cunningham.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our treasurer, John Ralfe writes,

Firstly, let me thank you for the financial support which you give to Craigowl Church and to the other charitable groups who benefit from opportunities for us all to give on specific occasions throughout the year.

We are now approaching the end of the first three months of the 2025 Financial year. Myself, and several others, have been busy putting together the first Annual Report and Accounts for Craigowl Church, for the year ended 31 December 2024. It is quite a task this time around because, due to the Union of both churches on 1 July, the level of the joint income for last year has meant that we must submit additional disclosures to the Charity Regulator. This all takes time, but hopefully the accounting work will be completed soon.

I am happy to report, that despite a deficit for the first two months of 2025, our bank balance remains healthy, however we will be reporting deficits over the coming months. Once the accounting process as required by Presbytery and the Charity Regulator is complete, I intend sharing the 2024 Annual Accounts with you together with the up-to-date 2025 income and expenditure detail.

Welcome Group

This group continues to meet every Wednesday from 2 – 4pm (except in school holidays) in the Living Rooms (£1.50 per session). There is a time of chat, activities, fun and fellowship and of course the much appreciated tea and coffee, etc. Recently, the group had a talk from Police Scotland Dog Handling Team including the short appearance of two very friendly “wagging tails.” 135 chickens for Cadbury’s eggs were knitted to raise money for a children’s hospice. Other interesting contributors were Charlie Webster who shared uplifting stories about local unsung Christian heroes. On his death aged 100, there was sharing of stories around President Jimmy Carter’s amazing life of Christian service and witness whilst near Holocaust Memorial Day the group thought about the sacrifice in WW2 of Jane Haining and Maximilian Kolbe and Corrie Ten Boom whose family saved so many Jews as described in the book/film about her life, “The Hiding Place”.



The group leader, Roz Scott advises that the group now have an enthusiastic cross-stitch group under the direction of Carol Elder. Recently, a “Desert Island Discs” format has been introduced into part of the Wednesday time together allowing some of those attending to share personal stories and memories.

Just a reminder - the group is open to men and women. All are invited to get themselves along to The Living Rooms on a Wednesday afternoon and join in a real mixture of activities, with a cuppa and share, as a member remarked recently, “our enjoyment in being together.”



B.S.L (British Sign Language) Group

Roz Scott who leads this group writes,

The group meets fortnightly on Fridays 9.30 – 10.45am in The Living Rooms. There is a nominal charge of 50p per session to cover the cost of tea, coffee and biscuits etc. We have welcomed five new members from the community since August. We learn to finger spell the Alphabet and signs for different categories e.g. colours, numbers, family members, time, clothes etc, with revision ongoing. Big focus recently has been conversational skills. We are learning about the historic contribution of Louis Braille, Alexander Graham Bell and the inspirational life of Helen Keller to promote education of those with hearing and/or visual impairment. We look forward to visits soon from pupils at Ardler School to practise conversational skills together.

The dates on which this group meets are displayed on the Hall of Friendship notice board. If you would like any further information, please contact Roz Scott (Tel: 07773196074).

Friendship Group

The group has had a very enjoyable session with a variety of interesting talks. There was a well-attended Christmas lunch at the Apex Hotel and currently members are looking forward to afternoon tea at the V & A to round off the season. Thanks to members' generosity, in addition to giving a donation to church funds, three local charities: Starter Packs, Dundee Dragons and The Yard, have received financial support.

Playgroup

This group continues to meet every Friday morning from 9.30 to 11.30am. There will be no playgroup meeting during the Dundee schools Easter holiday break (4th and 11th April) but will open on Good Friday, 18th April despite the date being a school holiday. Thereafter, playgroup will be open every Friday through to 27th June.



The Larder@Craigowl Church

The Larder continues to be open on Wednesdays from 11.30am - 12.30pm and we are grateful to Dundee City Council for continuing to provide us with food. Thanks also to all in the church family who donated some money to purchase Easter eggs for those who attend the Larder and their children.

Nominating Committee

It can be confirmed that the search for a minister continues. The committee continue to trust that God will put before them the right person to become our minister. You might be interested to know that a closing date of 30th April 2025 has been set for the submission of applications.

Carpet Bowling Club

The club has had a very successful season with membership at full capacity.

As the outdoor bowling begins, we wish all members an enjoyable summer.

Rev James E Powrie

Many will have been saddened to learn of the recent death of Rev Jim Powrie. In an article such as this, it's impossible to adequately summarise Jim's life and ministry and the impact which his faithfulness to God had on so many people. At 2pm on Saturday 20th September 2025, a Thanksgiving Service will be held in Craigowl Church when there will be a greater opportunity to remember and give thanks for all that Jim did in God's name. Meanwhile, Catherine Coull offers a brief glimpse and reflection of Jim and his ministry.

Jim Powrie was the minister of Chalmers Ardler Church for 30 years. He and Rhoda came to the church when it was newly established, and, with the passion for the gospel which marked his life, he set about taking the good news of Jesus to the new community around the church. Two WEC missions in the early years resulted in many becoming Christians, and many people in this church have stories of what Jim meant in their lives – stories of him visiting their homes, of speaking to them about God in a way they had never heard before, of leading them to faith. Church life with Jim was never dull, as he was always open to whatever he believed the Holy Spirit to be doing, including door to door evangelism and the healing ministry, which he even initiated in Presbytery!

Prayer and the healing ministry were a big part of his life, and he had a real ministry to people with mental health problems - and also to young men. The Sunday evening service congregation sometimes included members of the local gang, with Jim saying "Come away in, lads, there's seats at the front!"

He had a pastor's heart, a real love for people, and a number of people were called into the ministry themselves as a result of his ministry. Many people, when asked who was the most faithful, godly person they had ever met, would answer, "Jim Powrie".

Jim had a huge influence on many people, both during his ministry in Chalmers Ardler and after he retired, when he kept in touch with many people and continued to take every opportunity to speak about Jesus. We give thanks to God for his life and for all that he has meant to this church and to others.

"Well done, good and faithful servant."



The banner features the Craigowl Church logo on the left, which consists of a blue cross and the text "Craigowl Church". To the right, contact details are listed with icons: a telephone icon for the phone number 07591 010182, a globe icon for the website www.craigowlchurch.org.uk, an envelope icon for the email address info@craigowlchurch.org.uk, and a location pin icon for the address 58 Turnberry Ave., Dundee, DD2 3TP.