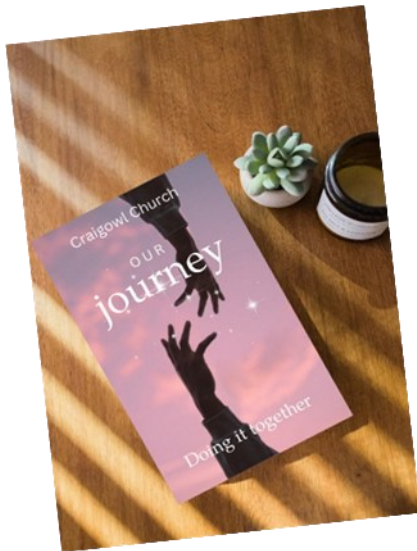




CRAIGOWL CHURCH

Loving Jesus • Loving our community

Magazine: August 2025



our journey

If we associate the journey of Craigowl Church as a book, maybe we can say that the prologue has now come to an end. With the election of Chris Barlas to become our first minister subject to completion of the affirmation process undertaken by Presbytery, we can now start to delve into the first chapter. Get to know the characters – Chris, his wife and family. And of course, we too are part of the story. Although it might take some time, Chris will want to get to know us. As we move through the pages, hopefully we will see all characters embracing the challenges of delivering good pastoral care and discipleship alongside mission and outreach as we seek to build a strong and lively church.

We will discover that Chris comes with a distinct personality, a unique set of spiritual gifts, a diverse set of experiences and an acknowledgment that he, like us, will make mistakes. As we delve into this first chapter, we may see that God has not presented us with a replica of what has come before. Whilst there is a confidence that Chris will build on the past, he will undoubtedly do some things differently. However, following early conversations with Chris it's clear that what will remain firm is a desire to assist, support and encourage as we all navigate the unique challenges and opportunities which surround us.


Craigowl Church has an exciting story to tell – we can all strive to ensure that across our community there is taking place transformative work of demonstrating grace, equipping disciples and sharing the good news. Let's do it.....**TOGETHER!**

Rev James E Powrie



In the April edition of our magazine, we intimated the death of Rev James E Powrie, the former minister of Chalmers Ardler Church.

Jim was minister at Chalmers Ardler for 30 years having arrived shortly after its establishment. He was a much loved and respected minister who had a huge influence on many, both during his ministry at Chalmers Ardler and after he retired. A Service of Thanksgiving for Jim's life and ministry is being held in Craigowl Church at 2pm on Saturday 20th September 2025. All are invited to attend. At the conclusion of the service, refreshments will be available.





PROPERTY UPDATE

In our previous magazine it was highlighted that The General Trustees were preparing to advertise the Strathmartine Church complex for sale. This process has been initiated, and the good news is that an offer to purchase the property has been received and accepted. It's expected that the sale will conclude towards the middle of September. The sum realised from the sale, after deduction of the sale expenses, is money which is held for the benefit of Craigowl Church.

The work of preparing the manse for occupation by our new minister and his family is complete. Redecoration, some replacement of floor coverings and blinds, minor internal repair and general maintenance has been undertaken together with a significant overhaul of the front and rear garden and boundary fencing. Thanks are due to the team who assisted with this work – Sandy Reilly, Garry Duncan, Bill Robertson and Gordon Cunningham. In addition, these men are thanked for help with the maintaining of the church grounds.

The sale of the Strathmartine Church complex and occupancy of the manse will bring about the end of the need to undertake weekly inspections at the properties which has been a significant commitment.

We continue to try to keep on top of maintenance across the main church complex and alongside on-going general maintenance, we have completed the filling of some potholes, replacement of failed light bulbs within the main sanctuary, clearance/tidying of a store and installation of additional external security deterrents to prevent access to the roof areas.

Mostly, users of the property are good at ensuring that the premises are kept clean, tidy, clear of obstructions and safe etc. Just as a gentle reminder – if using equipment, please put it back to where it came from, keep all access points and general areas clear of obstructions (there are several users of the building who use wheelchairs, walking aids, prams and the like), follow the published health and safety guidelines, especially with regard to parking in the church grounds, and if you find anything broken and requiring repair or replacement, please speak with our property convenor, Gordon Cunningham. It's also appropriate to remind folk that if any group or person is wishing to make use of any part of the premises outwith their normal meeting time/date, please speak with Gordon to check that there is no clash with any other user and to ensure that heating is provided.

The Larder@Craigowl Church



The Larder continues to be open on Wednesdays from 11.30 am - 12.30 pm (£3 for 10 items).

On the first Wednesday of each month, there is the opportunity for a free tea/coffee and chat. In addition, the Community Nurse is normally available that day.

Ladies Bible Study

The Ladies Bible Study restarts on Tuesday 2 September. It meets from 2 - 3pm on Zoom - but please don't let the thought of Zoom put you off! It's really easy. Catherine sends out an email every week (usually on a Saturday) with the link to get into Zoom and details of the passage which the group will be looking at and some questions to think about. There is no pressure to speak. Some people are happy just to listen, and some speak enough for everyone. It's good just to spend that hour together, always interesting and encouraging to hear the thoughts of others and such a good way to grow in our knowledge of God and faith in Him. If you are interested in joining, please speak with Catherine.

Contact person: Catherine Coull

Carpet Bowling Club



The weekly meetings resume on Tuesday 7th October from 10.00am till 12 noon and at 7.00pm until 9.00pm. The club is open to experienced bowlers and beginners alike. You may come along for friendly games and refreshments to the morning or evening sessions or both. Please arrive promptly to enable teams to be organised. Everyone will be most welcome to share in the friendship and games.

Contact person:
Alison Gibson

WELCOME

GROUP

This group meets in the Living Rooms each Wednesdays 2-4pm (except school holidays), commencing 3rd September.

There is a welcoming cuppa on arrival and another with snacks later in the afternoon (£1.50 per week for refreshments). Activities include crafts, quizzes, clips of interest on YouTube, games, and speakers. Recently, there was an inspiring talk about sending goods to Ukraine with another speaker sharing memories of being a policeman serving as part of the late Queen's closest security detail. There is also opportunity to chat and share memories and experiences with each other. This group is open to men and women of all ages in our community.

Contact person: Roz Scott

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP



Parents, grandparents and carers with their little ones (pre-school aged children) are welcome to join this group which meets 9.30 – 11.30am on Friday mornings during school term time. The group restarted on Friday 22nd August.

Activities are varied and include free play time with a variety of play equipment available, play dough, jigsaws, crafts and some music/singing. A snack meeting the recommended healthy eating guidelines is provided. A nominal weekly charge is made of £1 for adults and 50p per child (4 months +) – maximum £2 per family.

Contact person: Barbara Chalmers



There is an opportunity through the Welcome Group to order Christmas gifts and cards etc. in aid of the Leprosy Mission. Gift Catalogues will be available from the beginning of September with a request that orders and money be submitted in good time for goods to arrive well before Christmas (doing this as a group means there are no postage and packaging costs).

Alongside cards and general gifts, there is the opportunity to purchase Gifts for Life. These are truly life changing gifts which transform the lives of people affected by leprosy around the world. Gifts include, 'The Gift of Sight'; 'The Gift of a Goat' and so many others. As a present to family and friends these contributed to last year's amazing total of £1,700 of goods bought which were of tremendous benefit to the ongoing Christian work of the Leprosy Mission. Catalogues will be available from Val Stewart or Carol Elder to whom orders and payment should be given. The goods purchased will be delivered to you at church.



As an example, this Gift of Life provides a uniform, shoes and school materials so that two children can attend school and obtain an education that will give them a bright future

BLYTHSWOOD CARE



Throughout the year there has been a steady collection of shoeboxes being handed in and then covered in Christmas paper ready to be filled. These boxes go to very needy communities in eastern Europe where local churches work in partnership with Blythswood Care, to distribute them to those most in need. Already many donations have been handed in for this year's appeal.

Our aim is again to fill 101 boxes for children, teenagers, men and women and send extra items (baby clothes and blankets). We are most grateful for cash donations to cover the cost of transportation of the boxes to Europe. Please watch out for the notice in church, from beginning of September, to indicate what specific items are required as we begin to fill up the boxes.





AN ENCOURAGING COMMUNICATION

Sometimes as Christians we faithfully share the 'good news' of Jesus Christ but don't always get to see the fruits resulting from the seeds which we plant. Very recently, we received a communication from a woman who back in the late 1970's/early 1980's and as a child was part of Chalmers Ardler Church. As an encouragement, here is an extract from that communication which is reproduced with her permission.

"I am writing because when I was very young, I came to your church. I became a Christian at Billy Graham's Mission Sheffield in 1985 having left Dundee in 1981. I'm writing because I have always felt that there must have been people at that time in your church who prayed for me as a child. They would be in their 70s and 80s by now. My mum was married to my dad then who was training to be a doctor at Ninewells.

My mum started coming to your church because they gave the family food parcels. At the time, mum and dad were very poor students. They had me when they were both 18 and in dad's first year at Ninewells. They had very little to live on and eventually when my dad qualified, they lived in Ninewells staff accommodation.

I remember being at your Good News Club for children at church, it has had a life-long influence on me. In June this year it is 40 years that I have been a Christian. I have been thanking people who have had a part to play in my journey. I thought I would write to you in case any older members of your congregation remember my mum and remember praying for us as a family. With regard to the people who prayed for us in your congregation, please do thank them for me. God has held tight to me as a result!"

Sometimes we just need reminding..... the seeds we sow today will bear fruit in tomorrow's harvest!



FINANCE REPORT

You might recall that when issuing our April magazine, it was highlighted that the Union had created a much more onerous process regarding the preparation of our Annual Accounts. We are pleased to report that the 2024 Accounts are now complete - they have been audited, certified to be correct, approved by Perth Presbytery and are now lodged with the charity regulator OSCR. You can access the accounts by [CLICKING HERE](#). If anyone would like to receive a paper copy, please speak with our treasurer, John Ralfe.

Over the 2025 period to date, our finances are showing a deficit of around £9,000 and whilst this situation needs to be controlled, the overall funds to hand are healthy with the consequence that all of our commitments are being met. As a church, we are grateful to all who give financially and you can be assured that the Kirk Session always strive to ensure that money given is used wisely, not just to meet on-going commitments but also to explore and embark upon mission and outreach opportunities across our parish.

It is appropriate to say a big 'thank you' to our treasurer, John Ralfe who has had a much increased workload across these past few months.



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

August 2025

Dear friends,

I recently took 2 weeks of study leave to read books, one of which challenged me about taking a proper Sabbath rest each week and I thought I would share some thoughts on the Sabbath with you.

I was brought up in a time when Sundays were quite different to what they are now. Most people did not work on that day, unless what they did was essential. At the same time, the Sabbath had long since become associated with boredom: in some places swings being tied up in parks so children couldn't play. Anyone hanging out their washing to dry on a Sunday risked judgement and criticism. However, we have far more freedom to do what we pleased on a Sunday compared to my grandparent's generation who were expected to go to church and only allowed to read the bible on a Sunday. The result of this traditionally legalistic attachment to the Sabbath was that people (Christian or not) rejected it to the extent that these days we can work, study, achieve and engage in almost every and any activity we choose 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In contrast, the Bible tells us that this constant "doing" is not how God intended people to live. In the giving of the Ten Commandments, God instructed the people to observe the Sabbath and keep it holy. They were to do no work on that day, nor were they to expect anyone else to work. In the book of Exodus (20:8), the reason given for this commandment is that God, having completed his work of creation in 6 days, rested on the 7th day. If God needed to rest, then so did they. In the book of Deuteronomy (5:12-15) the reason given is that God had rescued his people out of slavery in Egypt, where they never had any time off. Their new found freedom meant that they could, and should, rest for one day a week.

Toward the end of my time of study leave, I felt called to take a whole day of rest: to spend it walking in the beautiful outdoors, reading non-theological books, praying, sitting doing nothing in particular. In some ways I was instantly bored but in others I found it to be a time of refreshing and relaxation, and I am very thankful to have had the chance to be still. Now that I'm back within the rhythm of the working week, and daily chores, taking a rest day remains a challenge as it must for everyone living in today's world. In this I'm reminded not to be too legalistic about my Sabbath. One small but significant thing I can do is shut off my computer on my day off so that I don't send emails. Having been challenged on my Sabbath-keeping practice, I pass the torch to you. I encourage you to take a Sabbath, whatever that looks like in your world. Take a day to do something different from what you do on all the other days of the week. Take some time to pause and experience the blessing of rest and refreshment which is God's gift to you, and see where that leads you.

Every blessing,

Jean



Like last year, as part of this celebration you might like to donate some flowers which following the morning service will be distributed to members of our congregation and some folk in the community. Alternatively, as you leave church, there will be an opportunity to make a monetary gift towards the work of WaterAid (*see separate article below*).

If you would like to donate a bunch of flowers, you can drop them off at church on Saturday 20th September between 3.30-4.30pm (following the conclusion of the service remembering the life of Rev Jim Powrie) or bring them to church on the Sunday morning by 10.30am.



Our vision is of a world where everyone, everywhere has clean water, decent toilets, and good hygiene.

Did you know that.....

- 703 million people – almost one in ten – don't have clean water close to home.
- 1,5 billion people – almost one in five – don't have a decent toilet of their own.
- Almost 2 billion people – one in four – can't wash their hands with soap at home.
- More than 1,000 children under five die every day due to diseases caused by unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Our direct reach
Since 1981 WaterAid has directly reached:

	28.9 million people with clean water
	29.2 million people with decent toilets
	28.7 million people with good hygiene

Water Aid have a vision of a world where everyone, everywhere has clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene. The image to the left, shows just some of what WaterAid has achieved since its establishment back in 1981. You can read more about this organisation by [CLICKING HERE](#)

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The new session of fortnightly meetings begins on Monday 8th September at 2pm when one of the group, Lyndsay Berry, will help make name badges. Across the session, there is a varied syllabus of talks and activities, many of them suggested by members and of course there are always refreshments. If you have not come to this group before, do come along to be entertained and enjoy the company. Everyone – men and women, is most welcome.

Contact person: Linda Muir



A National Week of Prayer has been called for 6 - 14th September. This comes from a number of Christian ministries including the Church of England, Pray for Scotland, Open Doors, Evangelical Alliance, CARE, 24-7 Prayer and many more. They say that they have been brought together by the Holy Spirit with a united vision, committing to pray for the nations and let faith rise; that it is a week to remember and discover the good things God has done and continues to do in this country, with thanksgiving, worship and praise, as we return to Him.

We would encourage you to join Christians throughout the country by taking a particular time each day during this week to pray for each other, our leaders, our nation and the nations of the world. You can find out more by [CLICKING HERE](#) whilst further information and encouragement to pray will be included in our September prayer diary and on our social media platforms.



There are many ways to help in church. One such way is to assist with the preparation and operation of our PowerPoint presentations which are used in Sunday worship. Whilst a little knowledge associated with using a computer and PowerPoint software would be helpful; training and support would be provided. If you think you might be interested in making this your practical input into church life, in the first instance, contact Gordon Cunningham.



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.



**Craigowl
Church**



07591 010182



www.craigowlchurch.org.uk



info@craigowlchurch.org.uk



58 Turnberry Ave., Dundee, DD2 3TP

Scottish Charity Number: SC021763 Craigowl Church of Scotland Dundee