# Craigiebuckler Parish Church Magazine Spring 2023







Festival of Light 4th December 2022





Nativity in a Box



Acclamations/Morven Singers @ Seniors Club

#### CRAIGIEBUCKLER PARISH CHURCH

Springfield Road, Aberdeen, AB15 8AA

#### Spring 2023

#### **Minister**

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#### FROM OUR MINISTER

Spring 2023

Dear friends,

In the Christian Calendar Spring is the season when we walk with Jesus the Way of the Cross, journeying with him through the weeks of Lent to Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and on to Easter morning. It is a season of solemness which leads us to the ignominious criminal's death on a Roman Cross. Taking us from the depths of human depravity to the heights of God's redeeming love. From Cross to Resurrection, from death to life.

That in the northern hemisphere this Christian season is celebrated during the meteorological season of Spring is filled with symbolism. The very name of the season Lent comes from an old English word which means to lengthen and comes at the time of year when the days are getting longer, when there is more light, with the hope of longer, brighter, warmer days to come. A time when the darkness of winter is being overcome by the light of Spring.

It is also that time of year when signs of new life are all around us. The new life of Spring burgeoning from the apparent deadness of winter. From the first snow drops pushing their tentative way through the frost and snow, to the other Spring flowers, crocuses, daffodils and tulips each, in their turn, bursting into vibrant coloured blooms. The buds on the trees and more birds visiting the garden. The ducks on Walker Dam pairing up, crows collecting nesting material, and the tapping of the woodpecker, all signs that Spring has come, new life returned, and hope restored.

Spring is a metaphor for Lent and Easter.

Lent, that period of solemnity when we focus our attention on Jesus final journey to Jerusalem. The warnings he gave his followers that, awaiting him in the Holy City, were suffering and death. Yet, when he arrived this seemed far from likely. He was greeted with joy and rejoicing, hailed as a king. However, his throne was to be no ornamented, gilded chair such as King Charles will soon occupy. Then as Holy Week progresses the signs become ever clearer, that he is on a collision course with the authorities. All of which culminates in his arrest on Maundy Thursday evening. His trial before the chief priests and the Sanhedrin, before Herod and the Roman Governor, Pilate. His scourging and humiliation. The one who has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Then the final indignity, hung on a Roman cross for all the world to see, to sneer at and to jeer. This was his throne. Yet, from this darkness came light such as the world, for all it has tried to, has never been able to extinguish.

For, three days later when the women went to the Spring garden, to the place where he had been laid, he was not there. He had risen. From the darkness of the Cross sprang the light of the Resurrection.

As the days lengthen through Spring, and Lent; as the darkness of winter gives way to days of light, we are reminded of the light which no darkness can overcome. The light which the darkness of the cross could not extinguish. The light which paradoxically shines from that darkest of places, from the pain, the agony, the abandonment of the cross. The light which is God's love for the world. A world he loves so much that he gave his only Son to die for it. By his death on the cross we live with the hope of new life, the new life God offers each of us in Christ. The new life of Spring which brings the forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life.

As we rejoice in the longer, lighter days; as we experience the joy of new life all around us let them remind you of the light and new life we have in Christ.

Rejoice in that light, and new life, which bring us a joy and a peace which the world can never give us.

May God bless you with the light of his resurrection love.

Your minister and friend,

Kenneth L. Petrie

#### COMMUNION

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday,  $30^{th}$  April, at 11.00 am

All who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity and truth are invited to join him at the Table he has prepared for us.

There will be a retiring offering at the service.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL IN A BAG

At Craigiebuckler Church we already have fun family friendly services but maybe a little something was missing for the younger members of our congregation. While organising my own daughters christening, we knew 16 children would be coming to the service and the so the idea of Sunday school in a bag was born!

Its a bag full of fun things to make and do, while learning bible stories. You might make woolly sheep, awesome groovy glasses or a friendship bracelet and there might even be a sweet treat too!

It means your children can come to church with you every Sunday and know there will be a little bag of activities to help them enjoy coming to church, while getting to know the hymns and lessons in a normal service.



#### FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

This was held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December was a very successful afternoon with a crowd of about 200 attending. There was a mix of crafts and activities, bouncy castle, hot chocolate and mulled wine, a small Christmas Market. (See pictures on inside front cover)

We also had some new lights, also finger lights for everyone to use, and gave away copies of Amazing Days, the Christmas story for children, and the Hope Christmas Magazine for adults.

The event was supported by Aberdeen City Council, Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council, and along with donations realised a small surplus which will be used for future events.

#### Chuckle Corner

Noah opens up the ark and let all the animals out, telling them to "Go forth and multiply!"

He's closing the great doors of the ark when he notices that there are two snakes sitting in a dark corner.

So he says to them, "Didn't you hear me? You can go now. Go forth and multiply."

"We can't," said the snakes. "We're adders."

#### VALENTINE'S PARTY

Our first Valentine's Party was held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February and was a great afternoon when over 30 came along to enjoy a mix of games, crafts, worship, and food all with the Valentine's theme of love.

Those who came were a mix of young families, and church folk, including several who do not normally attend such events. The folk from the church left saying they had met and spoken to others they hadn't met before.

The young families had a great, fun time and asked when our next event would be.

There was a real buzz and a lot of laughter in the halls as we shared God's love with one another.

#### CAFE AND LEGO CHURCH

We will be holding a series of Café Church events along with Lego Church tying into the Christian Year. Lego Church will precede the Café Church and people will be able to come to one, or both. Food will be provided. The name for the Café Church will be 5@5-5 churches meeting at  $5.00 \, \text{pm}$ .

The dates of these will be

28<sup>th</sup> May 24<sup>th</sup> September 26<sup>th</sup> November 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Pentecost at Mannofield. Harvest at Ruthrieston West. Advent at Craigiebuckler. Lent at Cults.

## CRAIGIEBUCKLER CELEBRATES THE CORONATION

As you will be aware Saturday, 6th May will be an historic day for our country. For the first time in 70 years, and for the first time in most of our lives, we will witness the coronation of a new monarch when H.M. King Charles III is crowned at Westminster Abbey.



To mark this occasion Craigiebuckler will be Celebrating the Coronation on Sunday,  $7^{th}$  May in an event similar to that which we held last year for the Platinum Jubilee of her late Majesty, The Queen.

The day will begin with a special service at 11.00am to mark the Coronation prior to which we hope a tree will be planted in the church grounds by Seafield and Craigiebuckler Community Council.

Following the service there will be an afternoon of entertainment and activities for everyone in our local community to enjoy. From 12.30 bring your own picnic, or purchase food from the onsite food van. At 1.00pm the entertainment begins with a magic show from local magician Garry Seagraves, followed by storyteller, Pauline Cordiner, a dancing display by Danscentre, pupils of Hazlehead Primary School, the Grampian Concert Orchestra, and finishing with a community sing-a-long.

There will be a bouncy castle, face painting, a coronation trail, crown making as well as other crafts, and ice cream will be available to purchase.

This event is free, although food will have to be purchased, and donations can be made to help cover the cost of the afternoon.

#### CRAIGIEBUCKLER SENIORS' CLUB



The Craigiebuckler Seniors Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month 2 - 4pm in the church hall and costs £3. We average 30-40 'seniors' attending, both men and women, and is open to anyone living in the community.

So far this year, we've had a Scottish quiz plus musical entertainment from the Fyfe Penni Piece and the Acclamations Choir (see photograph on inside front page).

On 5 April, the meeting will involve an entertaining gardening talk by Jimmy Macrae followed by musical entertainment by Donald Grassie and Strathspey and Reel fiddlers.

On 3 May, we'll hold our Coronation Party.

Hilary Forbes

#### THE GUILD



Whose we are and Whom we serve - A faith to proclaim.

The current Guild Strategy is 'Look Forward in Faith' and this has inspired us since being able to meet again following the easing of Covid restrictions. Our membership is stable and monthly meetings are well supported by members old and new.

In January, Jimmy McRae took us on a virtual tour of colourful gardens over a 12 month period. These covered venues throughout the UK and ended with views of our newly reopened Union Terrace Gardens. In February, Kenneth was our speaker and the topic was the Honours of Scotland. In March we were due to go on a trip to the Holy Land but unfortunately snow forced the cancellation of the meeting. On March 22nd, Queens Cross Church was the venue for a Regional Big Sing organised by the National Guild Committee, an event well supported by north east Guild members, all in good voice! At our April meeting Sylvia Halkerston, Lord Dean of Guild of the City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen, the first female to hold this position, will be our Speaker. In May, we will mark the Coronation of King Charles and the present session will end with our AGM in June. Planning will then begin for the new session beginning in September.

Guild membership is open to everyone, young and old, male or female, so YOU will be welcome to join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and friendship on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm.

For further details contact Jean Bryce, Convener (01224 319436)

#### GROUNDS MAINTENANCE HELP

On Saturday 1st April at 9.00am we will have started our monthly grounds maintenance programme for 2023

We meet in the Church car park on the 1st Saturday of every month until November at 9.00 am and work to about 11.30/12.00am maintaining the church grounds. Various tasks include borders maintenance, weeding, drains/gutters inspections, some electrical works, etc, etc....... too many to mention really, but basically, we cover as much external maintenance as best we can with external contractors for some of the heavier tasks.

We look forward to seeing all the established hard-working team, each month but we still need a lot more help in the long term to keep on top of the workload. Any contribution of effort would be much appreciated ......small or big. You might want to simply help maintain a border, or even part of a border.....we can easily designate a specific task/area for you. You don't have to undertake the task on 1st Saturdays......you can do the work when it suits you.

If you are interested please turn up on the first Saturday of the month or contact Edward Argo at eargo@btinternet.com or 01224 749774 (evenings).



#### **PRAYER**

#### "Prayer is the bridge between panic and peace"

Did you know that Craigiebuckler has a prayer group? 2-3 members of this small group meet each Sunday after the service to pray.

Prayer requests can be left in the prayer box, or given directly to Kenneth, or one of the group. All prayer requests are treated in confidence. No prayer is too big or too small.

In praying we follow the example of Jesus who took time out, even at his busiest, to pray for others. But we too are blessed by this and the prayer group has seen many amazing answers to prayer.

We also encourage you to pray. Prayer, our direct line to God. It is simply communicating with him and listening to what he has to say. Pray with expectation, confidence and persistence. He always answers - sometimes with a "Yes"; sometimes with "Not yet," and sometimes with "I've something better in mind."

And if you feel called to come and join the prayer group then please speak to Kenneth.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

#### Karen Crawford



Answer: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket

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# SPOT THE DIFFERENCES There are seven.

#### Luke 18:27

#### Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

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For example,  $F \rightarrow V = Q$ 

#### Puzzle #1

Do you know where this verse is located?

## Bible Wordsearch

Parable of the Dishonest manager

No.166 Luke 16:1-15 ACCOUNT JUSTIFY EARTSLGAI LOSE ACCUSED ASHAMED LOVED MANAGER BILL BUSHELS MASTER MONEY DEBTORS DESPISE OIL OWF DIG FTFRNAL PROPERTY **FYFS** RICH GAIN SERVANT SHREWD GALLONS SIGHT GOD HATE SIT SNEERING HEARTS TRUST HOUSES **JESUS** WEALTH JOB WORLDLY COMMENDED

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right DISHONEST DWELLINGS POSSESSIONS

Psalm 68

#### PREACHING COURSE

Completing the Leading Worship course last year encouraged me to continue, and to undertake the preaching course this year. Again it was a 6 week course spread over 12 weeks online. Although this class was slightly smaller, there were about 30 taking part. Only 8 were from Aberdeen city, the rest from further afield in the north-east, or in Europe.

The Preaching course is more academic than the Leading Worship course. Having no university experience it was a fairly steep learning curve. The dictionary became my new reading companion, as I looked up the correct meanings of words such as hermeneutic; homiletic; exegesis and rhetoric. However it has also been most interesting learning to break down the structure of a sermon, and delve into the meaning of texts.

To guide our study we used the book The Practice of Preaching by Paul Scott Wilson. We have also been able to read, and review, a wide range of sermons - including the royal wedding sermon by Michael Carry. Each fortnight we had two chapters to read, and a few questions to prepare for discussion.

The class was again mainly discussion led, with short teachings in-between. Most of the students were willing to participate, and share their experience, although it was ok just to listen too.

The course will finish with a written assessment which includes preparing a sermon, and reflective commentary of the process we followed, along with a bibliography.

On satisfactory completion we receive a certificate from Christs college, and can be set aside as Local Preachers.

I would recommend this course, or the Leading Worship course to anyone. Although I had to work on the academic side of things, some recent study of writing for children helped greatly. Each participant had different strengths and ways of considering the material.

The encouragement and support I've received from the congregation at Craigiebuckler and Kenneth, the minister has been invaluable - so thank you for your support.

Karen Crawford



#### THE BOYS' BRIGADE

We are all enjoying our session in Boys' Brigade and while we have a smaller number of boys across Junior and Company Sections they are all enthusiastic and very regular at attending. We have therefore taken the decision to combine both sections together for the remainder of the session as this increases the number for games, challenges and quizzes. The age range is Primary 5 to Secondary 1 and this is not too wide a range to accommodate.

Our Christmas activity this year was a visit to Codona's where we enjoyed bowling, adventure golf and laser tag.

During the last few months we have played football, basketball, indoor hockey and badminton along with a number of different team games. Challenges have included pool, movie and music quizzes, a Pictionary competition and a family fortunes style quiz.

We did a Christmas craft of making and decorating Christmas tree baubles and have just finished a craft over two weeks to decorate a pot and then plant some flowers as a Mothers' Day present. Two photos are included to show the pots once decorated and filled with plants. (See inside back page) Hopefully these will grow well over the next few months!

Food related activities are always popular and in addition to the weekly tuck shop, we made chocolate snowballs just before Christmas, shortbread for Burns' Night, and pancakes at the start of Lent. We are also hoping to do some Easter themed baking before the end of March.

While, we are approaching the end of the session, we would be delighted to welcome any new members from Primary 4 upwards. We are looking forward to the lighter (and less chilly!) evenings when we will hope to have some outdoor activities.

Our next session will start in September, when we hope to have Junior and Company Section meeting as separate groups due to increased numbers in both.

David Cooper

#### **BLESSINGS**

Blessings is a song by Laura Story which is regularly played on UCB radio and won a Grammy award in 2012. It was written when she was coming to terms with her husband's brain tumour diagnosis. The song gives us a different way to look at the difficult times in life.

We pray for blessings
We pray for peace
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering
All the while, You hear each spoken need
Yet love us way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disquise

We pray for wisdom
Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt your goodness, we doubt your love
As if every promise from Your Word is not enough
All the while, You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe

When friends betray us When darkness seems to win We know that pain reminds this heart That this is not our home

What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
What if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are your mercies in disquise

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Cd6J6Wgnv4M

#### ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE

This year's Animal Blessing service will be held on Sunday, 11th June at 3.00 p.m. in the Church Hall.

This annual event which always attracts a good number of pets with their owners gives us the opportunity to think about the animals with whom we share the world and the importance of animals in our lives.

If your pet would like to come then bring them along; they and you will be made very welcome.











#### CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS

For the last three years, since early in the Pandemic, we have been collecting food, and other items, for Aberdeen Cyrenians at our weekly Monday Market, at which we also have our Fairtrade Stall and Jean's Jams. The generosity of all who support this work is greatly appreciated. Over the time we have donated many thousands of pounds worth of goods to the Cyrenians, raised money for Christian Aid from the profits from Fairtrade, and also raised funds for the Guld projects through the sale of Jean's jams. These are important ways in which we show our care and love for our neighbours here in Aberdeen and across the world.

In addition we were also able to support the Cyrenians by making a donation to their work from offerings made at our Christmas Eve Nativity and Watchnight Services. Although we did not announce an offering people generously asked if they might make one which meant we were able to send £300 to the Cyrenians.

Then, following the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, which killed so many and made millions homeless, we held a retiring offering for Christian Aid's Earthquake Appeal which you generously supported. We sent a cheque for £1,007 to Christian Aid which will help those who lost everything in the earthquake.

These efforts, which often go on quietly and without any fanfare, are an important part of our work as a congregation of Christ's people caring for, and loving, our neighbours.

Thanks are due to those who make this possible and to all who generously support them.





#### FAIR TRADE STALL

For many years the congregation at Craigiebuckler have purchased supplies of tea, coffee, muesli, dried fruit, biscuits, confectionery and greetings cards from the Fair Trade Stall during coffee time on a Sunday morning. Since Covid the Stall has also been available on a Monday morning between and 10 and 11 am. All purchases help improve the lives of small scale producers by ensuring fair returns for their work and a stable market. The Stall has also benefitted Christian Aid, to whom we donate all excess income raised from sales and donations of small change.

Sadly, Traidcraft, whose products we stock, went into Administration at the end of January 2023, a victim of our current economic climate. Our local supplier, at Cults Church, still has remaining stock and has been able to source fairtrade tea, coffee and chocolate from other firms. We will continue running our stall, albeit with a reduced range of goods, for the benefit of Third World producers and our loyal 'customers'.

Brian & Jean Bryce



## YESTERYDAY IS HISTORY

## TOMORROW IS A MYSTERY

# TODAY IS A GIFT

THAT IS WHY IT IS CALLED THE PRESENT

#### RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Before I retired in December, after 22 years working in the care sector (early obviously), I realised I still wanted to do something which would help others.

One day I saw an advert on Facebook looking for volunteers for The Royal Voluntary Service in Aberdeen to work in ARI on the trolley shop. This is a service which had to stop during the Covid pandemic and for lots of reasons has lost a number of volunteers. So, I applied and was accepted as a new volunteer. There have been a few hiccups along the way and my start date was pushed back to February, but I have now been out with my trolley a few times with my supervisor Andrea and my L plates are coming off. We have been warmly "welcomed back" by staff and patients, glad to see us.

As well as offering a variety of snacks for sale to anyone who wants to buy, I can spend time chatting to patients. (well qualified for that!) It may be they are from out with the city so don't get visitors and I might be the only non-medical person they have contact with.

At the moment I am working in the green zone but if more volunteers come forward then the area being covered can be extended with another trolley.

RVS are very flexible with the hours you do. At the moment I do 10-12 on a Monday. The RVS also operate a cafe in the Maternity Hospital. So, if you have some free time and want to help then consider the RVS. You would be made very welcome.

I have also, after Kenneth asked on behalf of Hazlehead Primary School for volunteers interested in going into school to read to some children, volunteered for this. One of six ladies from the congregation who expressed an interest in doing so, for which the school is very grateful. I am looking forward to starting this new role in the new term.

There are so many opportunities to volunteer out there so, if you have some spare time and would like to help others look for that opportunity that interests you and sign up. I'm sure you will find it rewarding.

Pat Petrie

#### THE WEE KIRK MOOSE

I'm a wee Kirk moose and I haven't got a name
But Craigiebuckler Kirk is fit I ca' hame
We the clock on the steeple an a bell that gangs ding
An I wish that I was big enough to gaur it ge a ring

I can sing a' the psalms, I can say a' the prayers
An I whiles de a dance up an doon the pulpit stairs
I ken a' the texts, I can find them in the Book
An' there's mony a human bein" we nae notion whar to look

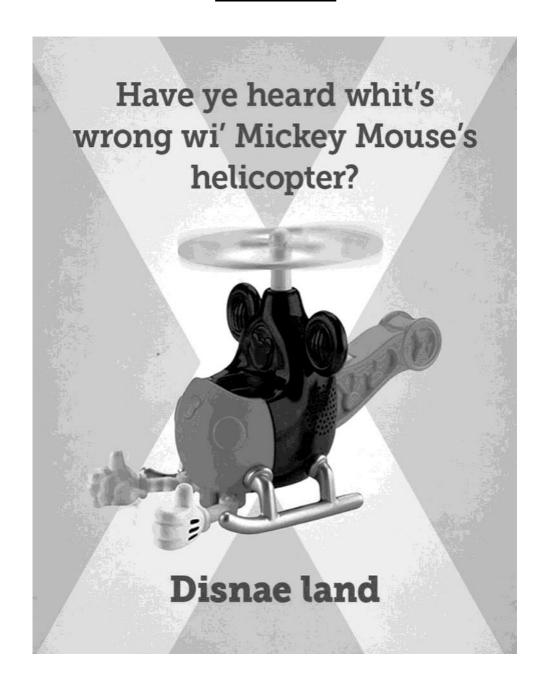
When the Minister says "firstly" an' the folk a' settle doon I gang creepin' an' creepin' among their best Sunday shoon An' I'm wishin, as I'm jinkin frae passage to pew That they'll maybe drap a pandrop or a peppermint chew

For I'm sometimes awfu' hungry, an there's naething much to eat Except the paraphrases or a hymn book for a treat I've eaten the "Auld Hunner," I've chawed Beatitudes Bit I canna say I've found them the tastiest o' foods

I'm a wee Kirk moose, an' I haven't got a name But I'm really contented; it's just my empty waim So I'm hopin' that some Sunday you'd mind about me please An bring me in your Bible, just a wee taste o' cheese.

Supplied by Libby Caldwell and adapted by Lesley Donaldson

#### CHUCKLE PAGE



#### STREAMING LIVE SERVICES



Craigiebuckler Parish Church understands the challenges faced throughout the Covid Pandemic, and while we are now returning to some sort of normality with regards to being able to attend in person, I am sure that we all remember not being able to worship on a Sunday Morning, which we all took for granted for so long.

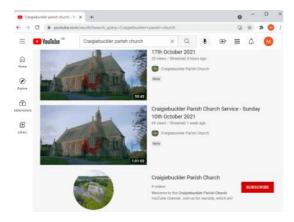
At Craigiebuckler we recognise that this live streaming is a very important part of our future, being able to continue to reach out to share our services to one and all. To that end we are fortunate enough to have been able to install a state of the art three camera system, that enables us to stream our services through YouTube, and we encourage everyone who is not able to physically join us in church to share in the life of the church from the comfort of their own armchair.

Our services can be found on any device that can access the internet and YouTube, for example a Smart Phone, Tablet, Laptop, Computer right through to a Smart Television.

I hope that the following instructions help you in finding the Craigiebuckler Parish Church YouTube channel.

On your device access the internet as you would normally do, and type youtube.com into the web address section that will take you to the YouTube home page. page:

In the search box type in Craigiebuckler Parish Church and then press the magnifier glass to the right This will take you to a page as shown below:



From this page you will see a list of the previous services along with a link to the upcoming service, you will also see a link to the Craigiebuckler Parish Church Home Page, this can be identified by the circular aerial picture of the church and the Subscribe Button:

By selecting the Subscribe button it will make it easier in the future to find our services, as when you next go to YouTube you can press the "Subscriptions" button to take you there.

From the options shown, you can select the live service or one from our library, this will then start to play the service selected.

We hope you enjoy our services online and would appreciate it if you can let us know your thoughts and comments

#### **FACEBOOK**

We also have a Facebook page and all are welcome to log in and contribute. The page is titled "Craigiebuckler Parish Church" and is moderated by Matthew Philip

It is hoped that members of all church organisations and groups will provide in-formation and photos about their activities directly to Matthew by emailing him at craigiebucklerchurch@outlook.com







Valentine Party 4th February 2023



BB Decorated Flower Pots for Mother's Day



This Magazine is printed by LANGSTANE PRESS 1 Links Place Aberdeen AB11 5DY