



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Autumn 2013



Dear All,

‘Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.’ (Nehemiah 8: 10)

As I am writing this I am sitting in our private sitting room. It is not yet very late in the evening but it is already dark outside. I have just lit some candles and am still considering whether or not to put the heating on. The summer is definitely over and we are looking forward to a busy autumn and winter at Chalmers Church.

The Kirk Session will do further work on a strategy for our work for the advancement of God’s Kingdom in this community. We are grateful to Audrey McLaren from Presbytery’s Congregational Development Team for offering to help us on this journey. Audrey is an Elder at Loanhead. She worked for Standard Life in senior positions and is now a highly trusted advisor in Lothian Presbytery working with congregations on developing working strategies and improving their structures.

Much is planned for the weeks ahead. The Rev Tom Gordon has kindly agreed to help us start a bereavement group; we hope to start this during the autumn.

The Worship Committee is planning a faith course “Back to Basics” to help us as a congregation to refocus on our calling and the message we have to tell. This will aim to help to

equip and nourish us for further outreach. This is likely to start at some point in the New Year.

The Sunday School is already back under its new name “Sunday Club”. We have a good number of teachers and helpers and had seven children on the first Sunday, which means that numbers have more than doubled. Pamela will do musical work with the children every so often and we are thinking about ways to better integrate our work with children and adult congregation. On 21st September we start our new Saturday Club for Children called “Kids Kirk”.

There is always certain sadness when summer goes and the days are getting shorter and the cold comes back. But our bible verse for September from Nehemiah 8:10 says ‘Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength’. We can be certain that the Lord will be with us this autumn as HE was throughout the summer and always is. HE will nourish and strengthen us for our work and give us our harvest.

With all good wishes for the approaching autumn,
God bless,
Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

MINISTER

Rev. Kristina Herbold Ross,
Braemar Villa,
2 Links Road, Port Seton
819254
E-mail:
minister@chalmerschurch.co.uk

(Please respect Monday as the Minister’s day off)

Funerals

On 23rd July 2013
James McKenzie,
Port Seton, 79 yrs old
On 2nd August 2013
Margaret Cunningham,
Port Seton, 84 yrs old
On 27th August 2013
Robert Kerr,
Longniddry, 82 yrs old

EDITOR’S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter.

The next issue will be available on

Sunday 3rd November 2013

Articles for this edition should be with me by

Sunday 20th October

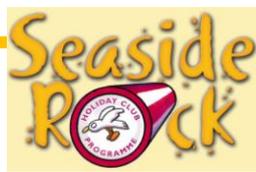
If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on:
chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com

Or by phone on 819471

Sheila Bulloch

The next Candle Coffee Club meeting is on
Thursday 19th September, at 10a.m in ‘Longniddry Inn’.
The Speakers will be Gavin & Des Campbell
All welcome





Cockenzie and Port Seton Holiday Club

This year saw the first week long holiday club run jointly by the local churches in Cockenzie and Port Seton and Scripture Union. The week took place in Chalmers Memorial Church from Monday 8th – 12th July from 10am – 12.30pm. 25 children attended over the week and enjoyed taking part in a variety of games, crafts, singing and challenges. The programme for the week was “Seaside Rock” which told the story of Peter – how he met and followed Jesus and the change that that made in his life, even when he messed things up Jesus forgave him and asked him to tell other people all about him. The children really engaged with these stories and loved reading the bible and asking questions to find out more. Each day there was a bible verse to remember and many of the children said that this was their favourite part of the week! The children and team all had an amazing week. God was at work in the lives of everyone there and it was really exciting to see!

I would like to say a huge thank you for your support and prayers throughout the week. Please continue to pray for the children who were at the club – that they would remember all they heard, saw and did and that they would return to the day club running at Christmas to learn more. If you would be interested in helping out at the Christmas, Easter or Summer clubs. Please get in touch (lindsayemmastewart@hotmail.co.uk)

Lindsay Stewart, Team Leader

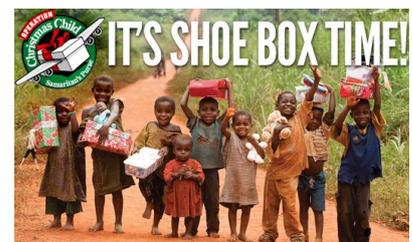
Sunday Club Leaders & Helpers Training

A Sunday Club Leaders and Helpers Training morning was held on a Saturday morning in mid-August. The training was led by Nicola Bruce and her husband Alistair. Seven people had indicated their intention to take part but eleven leaders and helpers turned up. This helped to engender new hope and enthusiasm for the challenges of Sunday Club and finding ways to tackle the dearth of children and young people at Chalmers on a Sunday morning.

We spent time looking at our expectations and experiences of Sunday School, both as adults and from our memories as children as well as action that could improve the work and experience that takes place. Among positive ideas that emerged were:

- to change the name from Sunday School to the Sunday Club and to incorporate the Kids Kirk logo
- to develop a Rota which gives greater continuity for the children from Sunday to Sunday. This would depend on having three or four key leaders who would take responsibility for a full month at a time but with helpers able to rotate sessions from month to month. Action on this has been initiated by Christine Baines.

Towards the end of the morning Alistair Bruce shared with us some of the findings of his research work into the place of the Children’s Address in Sunday morning services. It was evident that for some the old style of Children’s Address is no longer an essential part of Sunday morning, but thought was given to the possibility of linking the theme of the Sunday services with the Sunday Club sessions if children are present for part of the morning services. Concern was expressed about discovering the best way to integrate children into the life of the worshipping congregation, including the possibility of more frequent family services. This issue of integration was seen as being a matter that should be considered further by the Youth and Children’s Work Committee and might also be considered by the Worship Committee.



Operation Christmas Child ~ Shoebox Sunday

24th November 2013

This year there are some changes around the shoeboxes. We still want you to fill a box with goodies for boys and girls **aged between 2 -14years**, to send to places throughout Eastern Europe. However, this year we will help by providing you with a shoebox; please speak to Amanda or Sheila for a ready-made box for you to fill. There is a nominal cost of **£1 per box** (cheaper than a pair of shoes!!)

Watch out on the intimations in the coming weeks as to when the boxes and leaflets are available.

Each shoebox cost £3 to send, if you can't make a shoebox, maybe you can donate £3 for the travel costs?

Boxes can be made for **girls or boys** within the following age ranges:

2 -4years / 5 -9years / 10 - 14years.

Leaflets will be available soon, keep your eye on the intimations!

Our Church – an explanation of the Interior Decoration and Symbolism

Looking upwards in the Church you will see eight shields. Last edition we looked at the **West Side**, this month we will look at the **East Side**. Starting at the end nearest to the gallery there are four shields representing the four Gospels. Traditionally these are represented as:

1. The **dove** symbolises the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan when he received the Holy Spirit.
2. The **cross** surmounted by thorns symbolises the suffering and death of Jesus.
3. The **grain of wheat** and the **growing corn** symbolises the death of the seed bringing forth new life as did the death and resurrection of Jesus.
4. The **three crowns** and **star** give to us the sovereignty of the Holy Trinity. Father, Son and Holy Spirit reigning in glory.



Thanks

Nessie Craig would like to thank the minister for her hospital visits and all friends and family for their prayers and cards of good wishes during her recent illness. Also thanks are expressed for the church flowers received.

Christian Aid – A total of £1,088 was raised from the House-to-House collection. Thanks to all for their continuing support.

PRAYERS

Father, my Father! Send the Spirit of your son into my heart. Galatians 4.6

God of surprises, when I think you are not present in my life, you reveal yourself in the love of friends and family and nurture me in your never ending affection.

God of surprises, when we think you are not present in our community, you labour to make us of one heart and cause us to share gladly and generously.

God of surprises, when people think you are not present in our world, you bring hope out of despair and create growth out of difficulty.

God of surprises you are ever with us.

When the days go by and our vision fades, keep surprising us. When our hope dims, and our patience wears thin, keep coming to us. Teach us to keep our lamps lit and to be prepared, that we may see your loving presence among us.

Francis Brien

Please pray for

those who bear the burden of ill health.

those who bear the burden of poverty

those who bear the burden of bereavement

those who struggle under the weight of neglect

those who struggle under the weight of abuse

those who struggle under the weight of persecution

Lord, bless all those who carry crosses this day. Amen

The Sunday Club

(The New Sunday School)

Thank God that the leaders are rested over the summer and have come back with a new vision and ideas and that they can work in their new teams to share the love of Jesus to the children who come along.

Cleaning Rota

We are looking for more volunteers to clean the church hall facilities. The more people we get the less you need to do it! There isn't too much involved and normally takes 2 people an hour to do it. Can YOU help? If so please speak to Sheila Bulloch for more information on what is required.



Kids Kirk

The first session begins on **Saturday 21st September** 10am ~ 12noon in the Church Hall. The club is open to all primary aged children.

For more information and registration please contact Amanda or Sheila on

KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk

or 07980 059 974

Services and Meetings

Sunday

- 10:15 a.m. All-age Family Worship (in Hall)
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship (with Crèche)
6:15 p.m. Evening Worship (as advertised)

Monday

- 7:15 p.m. The Guild (Oct - March)

Tuesday

- 10.00 a.m. Chalmers Ramblers Walking Group
7.15 p.m. Prayer Time
7.45 p.m. Imagining the Bible (as advertised)

Welcome Wednesday

- 10 - 11a.m. Prayer Time (2nd of month)
1.30 - 3pm Get Together (2nd of month)
12-2p.m. Lunches (3rd of month)
10a.m - 12noon Coffee Time (last of month)

Wednesday – Evening Activities

- 5 – 6 p.m. 1st Port Seton Rainbows (Sept. - June)
6:30 p.m. Boys Brigade –
- 7:45p.m. {Anchor boys and Junior Section
{Company Section (Sept. - June)
8.00p.m. Badminton Group

Thursday

- 5:15 – 6:15p.m. 1st Cockenzie Rainbows }
6:30 – 8 p.m. 2nd Port Seton Brownies }
(Sept. - June)

Friday

- 1 – 3.30pm Childcare Intermediate 1 Group
(Aug – April)

Saturday

- 8.00 – 9.15a.m Prayer Breakfast (last of month)



OUR WORSHIP

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 15th September

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Amanda JOHNSTON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 22nd September

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev Tom GORDON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 29th September

(Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE)

- 11.00 a.m. Harvest Thanksgiving
6.15p.m Harvest of the Sea

Sunday 6th October

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Anne SUTHERLAND
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 13th October

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Ian BULLOCH
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 20th October

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev Tom GORDON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship – Ian BULLOCH

Sunday 27th October

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev John KNOX
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament of
HOLY COMMUNION (with Crèche)
6.15 p.m. Evening Worship - followed by a brief
celebration of **HOLY COMMUNION**

Sunday 3rd November

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Joyce BUCHANAN
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 10th November (NO 10.15am SERVICE)

- 10.50 a.m. Service at War Memorial
11.15 a.m. (approx.) Remembrance Service

Sunday 17th November

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev Tom GORDON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship – Rev Graham BLACK

Sunday 24th November – Shoebox Sunday

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Amanda JOHNSTON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship – Rev Tom GORDON
6.15 p.m. Evening Worship – Rev Tom GORDON

MINISTER

Rev. Kristina Herbold Ross
Tel: 01875 819254

TREASURER

Mrs Janet Farquhar
Tel: 811863

FLOWER CONVENER

Mrs Aileen Parker
Tel: 812302

SESSION CLERK

Mr John Murdoch
Tel: 812469

ACCESS to the HALL contact

Mr Tom Donaldson
Tel: 812023

ORGANIST

Mrs Pamela Zenati
Tel: 813641

HALL LETS

Miss Jean Johnston
Tel: 810520

BEADLE

Mr Duncan Morgan
Tel: 812071

PRAYER SECRETARY

Mrs Patricia Knox
Tel: 815423



Please recycle this newsletter and care for the earth as God intended