



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Autumn 2014

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.'

Dear All,

This verse from 1 Chronicles (chapter 22, verse 13) is our bible verse for the month of September. I find it an encouraging verse for the final month before – God willing – I will go on twelve months Maternity Leave from 1st October. There is still a lot of work to be done and things to be prepared and organised, but everything is well in hand and I am confident that the Kirk Session and the congregation will be well prepared for the year ahead. I am pleased to tell you that an excellent team will cover for me during the time of my absence: the Rev David Scott (minister at Traprain Parish Church – East Linton) will be the Interim Moderator and the Very Rev Dr John Cairns will be the Locum. Both will – together with the Kirk Session and the congregation – carry on the work forward we have started in the last months. I will not be allowed to carry out any ministerial work during Maternity Leave.

John Cairns will be responsible for Sunday services, funerals and Pastoral Care. (Please note that Elizabeth Glover will continue as Pastoral Care coordinator, but Lyn Marshall will be filling in for her for the time being.) David Scott will be Moderator of the Kirk Session and will continue working with you on work which has already been starting and oversee new projects. Kids Kirk is now well established and is going into its second year. So we can now confidently move on and start YKirk. Nicola Bruce will soon be back from her own Maternity Leave; we have an excellent team around Gillian Halcrow and Nicola to take charge of this exciting venture. The crèche has started again as we are having more young

children on Sundays. This means that we now have provisions for children from newborn until S3. We can review this when I will be back and what the next steps could be. Another new project for the coming year will be the Bereavement Group which is being organised and facilitated by Tom Gordon. We have also finally formed a Stewardship Planning Group to initiate a Stewardship Campaign in order to comply with an instruction of the 2011 General Assembly and help us sorting out our fabric issues. David Scott is happy and committed to be responsible for these areas of work and support the Kirk Session and congregation.

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.' – this is certainly an encouraging verse for a congregation that is about to go into a one year period of absence of their minister. But this minister and her husband appreciate these words of encouragement just as much as we are setting out on the new adventure of parenthood. You all know how much we were longing for this to happen and how difficult the journey has been until this point. We thank you for all your prayers and support and the encouragement so many of you gave us. Matthew and I are very excited but also a bit nervous about how things are going to be, so this month's bible verse is just as appreciated by us as it might be by the good people at Chalmers.

We wish you all God's rich blessing for the year ahead,

Kristina Herbold Ross & Matthew Ross

MINISTER

Rev. Kristina Herbold Ross,
Braemar Villa,
2 Links Road, Port Seton
819254
minister@chalmerschurch.co.uk
(Please respect Monday as the Minister's day off)

Baptisms

On 22nd June –
Luke & Summer Davidson

On 6th July - Thomas Halcrow

On 17th August –
Connor David Robert Taylor

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on **Sunday 2nd November 2014**. Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 19th October 2014**. If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on:

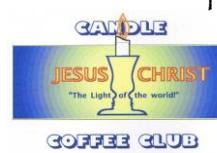
chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com or by phone on 819471
Sheila Bulloch

The next Candle Coffee Club meeting is on

Thursday 18th September

Meeting at 10a.m in
'Longniddry Inn'.

The Speakers will be Gavin & Des Campbell
All welcome



As part of the celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of Port Seton Centre, ladies and gents are cordially invited to attend a **Tea Dance** on **Thursday, 11th September**. The dance will run from **1.30pm – 4.00pm** approximately, and it would be lovely to see as many of you there as can manage to attend. As well as the dancing, refreshments will be provided. Please speak to Christine Maclean for more information.



Work with children and youth has been busy over the summer. We had a very successful **Family Fun Day for Kids Kirk** in June. This was an opportunity for the congregation to see what goes on each month in **Kids Kirk**. There are photo albums available for the past year's work, just ask if you would like to see them. For a week in July we ran '**Fit for a King**' Holiday Club, a joint club with the churches in Cockenzie and Port Seton, over the week we had 21 children. This was a fun filled week when the children learned about Jesus the King. '**Fit for a King**' was written to tie in with Glasgow 2014. Our church hall became a stadium for the week, with our athletes' villages from Nigeria, Jamaica, Tanzania, Bahamas, Canada and Seychelles. The children participated in a baton relay each day, we even had a real baton bearer on the Tuesday! Inside the baton was a clue about the story. We were all humming the theme tune, some of us still can't get it out of our heads. It was written by Nicola and Ali Bruce, it's very catchy! August was a time to have a break and rest up before the new session starts.

In September we start  at **Kids Kirk**. Over the year we are going to travel down Luke Street and visit various homes along the way. The 10.15am service following will be linked in, as there will be a house in the church hall. If you are interested in joining our team, which has grown, please contact either of us. We would like to say a huge Thank You to our team, who caught the **Kids Kirk** bug, and to the prayer support we have had. We are touched by the enthusiasm of so many people willing to spread the Love of Jesus Christ throughout our village.

God Bless, Sheila Bulloch & Amanda Johnston

Kids Kirk contact details are - KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or text on 07980 059 974



Y Kirk – Youth Kirk – Why Kirk. Why, Why, Why???????

Many times during Kids Kirk there was the question 'Why?' We explored who Jesus and God were, the love God shares and also brought the Good News of Jesus to many children within our community. Yet on the last day of Kids Kirk there was one burning question. 'Why can't I come back?'

We would like to continue the success of Kids Kirk and further build on the relationships we have made there. The coffee bar will be the main setting for our monthly meetings. There will be games, activities, life skills including making our own feast time.

Y Kirk has been set up to help answer some of the questions from these young people. 'Why the Lord's Prayer?' 'Why Kirk?' 'Why do we get Baptised?' 'Why do we have Communion?' The young people will have many questions and they will lead the way as we explore the Bible, the life of Jesus and our own journey through life.

The first session begins on **Friday 5th September** between **4pm and 6pm** in the coffee bar. Y Kirk is open to young people in P7 – S3. For more information or to register please contact Gillian Halcrow – Ykirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or 07736 073 960.

Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you (James 4 v. 8)

Prayer of Approach - We follow in your footsteps, Lord Jesus, you who had to walk alone. Strengthen us, that we might strengthen one another, and go before us as we seek to live lives that reflect your compassion and love.

Prayers of Intercession - Faithful God, we bring to you those facing persecution, those facing illness, those facing financial hardship, and all those who know the way ahead is going to be painful and difficult. **Strengthen them through the power of the cross.**

We pray for those who have been wounded: by their families, by their friends, by their church fellowships. **Strengthen them through the power of the cross.**

We stand with those who have been misunderstood, those who have been wrongly judged, and those who have been betrayed. **Strengthen them through the power of the cross.**

We remember those who have carried their cross in the name of Christ, and have suffered, been imprisoned, ostracised, betrayed. **Strengthen them through the power of the cross.**

All these prayers we bring in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Thanks

Christian Aid Door-to-Door collection – We raised £751 in May. Special thanks to the volunteers who went out collecting in the village and to everyone for their continuing support.

Maggie Ross would like to thank everyone for their goods wishes, cards and flowers she received for her 90th birthday. She would also say a big thank you to the ladies of the guild for the beautiful floral arrangement she received. Many thanks to you all. God bless.

Ann Anderson would like to thank all our Chalmers Church family for all the phone calls, cards, flowers and visits she received after her hip replacement. We are truly blessed to have such a caring congregation. It is good to be back at church again.

Elizabeth Glover is most grateful for all the support, prayers and good wishes given to her and Bob around her recent time of surgery.

Aileen Parker would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and prayers during the recent loss of her brother Alex.

David & Barbara Paton pass on their thanks for the flowers they received on the occasion of their Silver Wedding.

George & Isa Scott express their thanks for the flowers and cards received on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding.

Chalmers Memorial Church Youth and Children's Committee

Kids Kirk and Holiday Club:

We thank God for the success of Kids Kirk and Holiday Club, both of them new activities within the past 15 months and which have already resulted in over 60 children on our lists of active contacts. We must say a big thank you to Sheila Bulloch, Amanda Johnston and the excellent team of volunteers.

Sunday morning:

While we are very encouraged by the success of both Kids Kirk and Holiday Club, at the August Committee meeting we faced up to the reality of changed patterns of the use of Sunday by most families. Recognising the unpredictability and very small numbers of children attending weekly Sunday Club and the unfairness and stress that puts of the small team of teachers and helpers, we focussed on how Chalmers for the coming winter can best provide for children on Sunday mornings. This will include:

- *Family Services* at 10.15, usually attended by younger children of a pre-school age. It is encouraging to see how relaxed and at home are the children who attend as we share in hymns, prayers, action, visuals and reflection. This very special service with its participative and relaxed style of worship also meets real worship needs of the good numbers of adults who attend.
- *Crèche*, a new weekly provision for pre-school children which has started in late August and for which Christine Baines has already recruited a good number of adult volunteers as helpers.
- *Busy Bags*, an idea based on the action of another East Lothian Church, have been made by Aileen Parker and Lyn Marshall. The "Busy Bags" include small games as well as pictures and materials related to Bible stories for use by children who attend the 11.00 am service together with parents or carers
- *Music Sunday*, a once a month opportunity at 11.00 am, led by Pamela Zenati assisted by other helpers. The Music Sunday enables children to explore issues of Christian faith through Bible stories and music. Music Sunday will be held on the fourth Sunday of each month, the first for the coming year being on 26 October.

YKirk:

The discussion that led to the beginnings of YKirk, for children and young people from P7 – S3, happened at the February committee meeting where it was recognised that there is an urgent need to develop action for work with post-primary school young people. As a result a small group, comprising Kristina Herbold Ross, Nicola Bruce and Gillian Halcrow, took on the task of developing ideas and ensuring the necessary action to get YKirk under way. The plan is that YKirk will commence on Friday 5th September, running from 4.00 – 6.00 pm with future meetings on the second Friday of each month. Please keep YKirk and all the work with children and young people in your prayers.

John Knox

Stewardship Planning Group

A Stewardship Planning Group has been formed comprising the following members.

Ian Bulloch, Mary Gordon, George Smith, Tom Tervit and Eleanor Willins. John Murdoch as Session Clerk will be present at some of the meetings, as will the Minister.

The Group met for the first time, at the Manse, on the 28th July, and discussed the need for funds to cover work required on both the Manse and Church buildings over the next three years as well as for the ongoing work of the Church.

George Smith has agreed to act as convenor of the group.

In order to plan how we can raise these funds we are enlisting the help of Margot Robertson, one of the Church of Scotland's Stewardship Consultants.

By the time you read this we will have had our first meeting with her on Wednesday the 27th August, and will begin to plan the way forward.

Please remember the Stewardship Planning Group in your prayers as they set about the important task of ensuring we can finance the ongoing work of God's people in this place.

George Smith

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

5 – 6 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

- 7:45p.m

8.00p.m.

1st Port Seton Rainbows (Sept. - June)

Boys Brigade –

{Anchor boys and Junior Section}

{Company Section (Sept. - June)}

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)

4 – 6pm YKirk (2nd Friday of month) (Sept – June)

Saturday

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

10am-12noon Kids Kirk (3rd Sat of month)

(Sept – June)



OUR WORSHIP

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 7th September

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev John KNOX
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 14th September

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship
 – Rev Kristina HERBOLD ROSS
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 21st September

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

Sunday 28th September

- (Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE)**
 11.00 a.m. Harvest Thanksgiving
 6.15p.m Harvest of the Sea

Sunday 5th October

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Tom GORDON
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament of
 Holy Baptism and Guild Dedication
 - Very Rev Dr John CAIRNS

Sunday 12th October

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – TBA
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 – Very Rev Dr John CAIRNS

Sunday 19th October

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Ian BULLOCH
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 – Very Rev Dr John CAIRNS

Sunday 26th October

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Amanda JOHNSTON
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament of
HOLY COMMUNION
 - Very Rev Dr John CAIRNS
 6.15 p.m. Evening Worship - followed by a brief
 celebration of **HOLY COMMUNION**
 - Very Rev Dr John CAIRNS

Sunday 2nd November

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – TBA
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 - Very Rev Dr John CAIRNS

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

Vacancy
 Tel:

PRAYER SECRETARY

Mrs Patricia Knox
 Tel: 815423



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

SC004630 Cockenzie and Port Seton: Chalmers Memorial Parish Church (Church of Scotland) 'Scottish Charity'.

www.chalmerschurch.co.uk