



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Autumn 2019



**God, you are my God. I seek you with all my heart. With all my strength I thirst for you
in this dry desert where there isn't any water. Psalm 63:1**

The Manse, October 2019

Dear Friends,

I suspect we are all getting really fed up of the "B" word these days, and yes – on this occasion - I really do mean "Brexit". Sorry!

Whatever your view on the issues surrounding the UK's departure from Europe, I think the political and social commentators are correct that there has, in recent years, never been more acrimony and disharmony amongst our political leaders, who have found it impossible to even agree about what they disagree about far less agree what it is that they actually do agree on (if that makes sense!).

No wonder many of us are, to use more words that begin with B just a little *Baffled* or *Bored*, perhaps even *Bamboozled* as to what the eventual outcome of this whole process is going to be. By the time this newsletter is printed we will probably still not even know the answer to that one.

Times of political uncertainty always tend to cause anxiety in society at large. They are also, for Christians, times to consider as to what appropriate response the Church ought to make to these wider political concerns.

Politicians are often wont to tell the Church to stay out of politics. Perhaps the concern of the national church ought not to be about party politics, but we are concerned about the matters which affect the daily lives of people and politicians certainly have something to do with the welfare of people and society. Didn't Jesus once tell us to, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's?" (Mark 12 v7). It doesn't sound to me as if Jesus was disinterested in those who possess political power...

And didn't the Apostle Paul once ask us to pray "for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1st Timothy 2 verse 2)? Pray for Kings...and Prime Ministers and MPs... and MSPs... and Councillors...

The late, great George McLeod had this to say in some of his most celebrated, powerful and provocative words with which I finish these thoughts...

"I simply argue that the cross be raised again, at the centre of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles but on a cross between two thieves; on a town garbage heap; at a crossroad of politics so cosmopolitan that they had to write His title in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek ... and at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where He died, and that is what He died about. And that is where Christ's own ought to be, and that is what the church ought to be about."

With every blessing and best wish to you all. Your friend and Minister
Robin Allison (Rev)

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on

Sunday 8th December 2019.

Articles for this edition should be with me by
Sunday 24th November 2019.

If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me:

chalmerschurch@bopenworld.com

Sheila Bulloch

Our Minister

Rev Robin N Allison

Braemar Villa,

2 Links Road,

Port Seton

01875 812225

rallison@churchofscotland.org.uk

QUIZ NIGHT
Chalmers Church Hall
Friday 29th November @ 7.30
Tickets from Tom Gordon

Prizes ... Refreshments ... Craft-Stall
Come along for an exciting evening of Quiz questions
- £5 per person payable at door
Bring your own team or make up a team on the night
Test your knowledge, have fun and make friends

Children and Youth News

Kids Kirk and **Youth Kirk** kicked off in the middle of September with **21 children** and **13 young folk** respectively. As you can imagine the two sessions were very busy, but exciting and fun, getting to know some new children who had never been at **Kids Kirk** before, but had been contacted through the summer holiday club.

The **Kids Kirk** are venturing in to Gods Zoo, looking at creation and all that goes with that, and seeing some well-known bible passages in very different ways.

The **Youth Kirk** are looking at **The Beatitudes**, and becoming aware of the world around them and where Jesus fits into their lives. With this in mind we are planning to take part in the **Wee Sleep Out** on the 7th December! This highlights homelessness and poverty. Prayers and helpers required so watch this space!

Our Christmas Holiday Club will be on **Saturday 14th December 10am – 3pm – A Donkey's Christmas**. This event is open to children in P1 – P7, costing £4 per child. EVERYONE is invited to join us from 2.30pm to see what we've been up to and to join in with some fun activities. More details will be posted on our Facebook Page – www.facebook.com/chalmersmemorial and on the intimations. There will be a special event for the **Youth Kirk** on **Sunday 15th December** – look out for more details nearer the time.

Kids Kirk meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month 10am-12noon for children P1-P7.

Youth Kirk meets 6-7.30pm for young people from P7.

God Bless, Sheila, Amanda & Irene - KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or text on 07980 059 974.

Session Section - October 2019

What a busy summer it has been! But not a holiday for the church, going by the many reports received at the September Kirk Session meeting about continuing work done by the various committees and groups, for which thanks were noted.

I advise the result of one item of discussion which has concerned some members of the congregation, and justifies clarification. The Session agreed minor alterations to the church Hall Let Terms and Conditions which previously noted a strict 'No Alcohol' clause.

The Baird Trust advised us four years ago that this restriction on the use of the building had been lifted. No amendment was made at this time. After receiving a request from an outside organisation to supply a glass of wine at their summer event – already booked to take place in the church – the Session deliberated and agreed to this with specific conditions of our own applied. After much debate, it has now been unanimously agreed that there will continue to be no alcohol at church arranged events. For 'outside organisations', however, it was agreed – on a majority decision – that a revised wording of our Hall Let Terms and Conditions will now say: 'NO Alcohol is allowed on church premises unless with prior agreement at time of booking, dependant on context and fully at the discretion of the Kirk Session.'

You may note the wording is not encouraging such application, but taking into account regular discussions about how to draw people from the community into our church environment, the intention is not to put 'barriers' up with a blanket-ban on alcohol, but to give opportunity to explain our position should an application not be granted by the Kirk Session after discussion.

Thanks to all those who contributed to this full debate over the last two meetings.

Mary Gordon, Session Clerk

Christmas day can be hard time for some, for any number of reasons. Perhaps you will be on your own, or find it difficult for you and your family members. Why don't you spend some of the day with us, then?



On **Christmas Day** we will be serving a **three course Christmas lunch at 12 noon for 12.30 until 2.30pm**. This will be our gift, so there will be no cost to you. You will find an invitation with this newsletter: please complete and return it if you wish to join us.

In order to ensure a successful lunch, we need people to help us with a number of tasks, such as: setting out tables and chairs, laying tables, preparing the food, providing transport if necessary, serving at tables, acting as hosts to welcome and interact with diners, to clear and wash-up and tidy the hall. If you are able to help in any way, even if it's only for half an hour or so, please let Moyra Kaminski, Julia Allison or Joyce Buchanan know as soon as you can.

Thanks

Cathy Rintoul would like to say a huge thank you for all those who helped when she became unwell in church recently and to all those who called with good wishes. Thanks also for the church flowers.

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers, your love and prayers, we very much appreciated them. *The Quin Family*



Coffee Afternoon



In aid of **Cockenzie and Port Seton Holiday Club**
Saturday 26th October 2-4pm
 In **Cockenzie Old Parish Church Halls**
Tickets £3 (inc tea/coffee/cake)

Stewardship Conference 31st August 2019

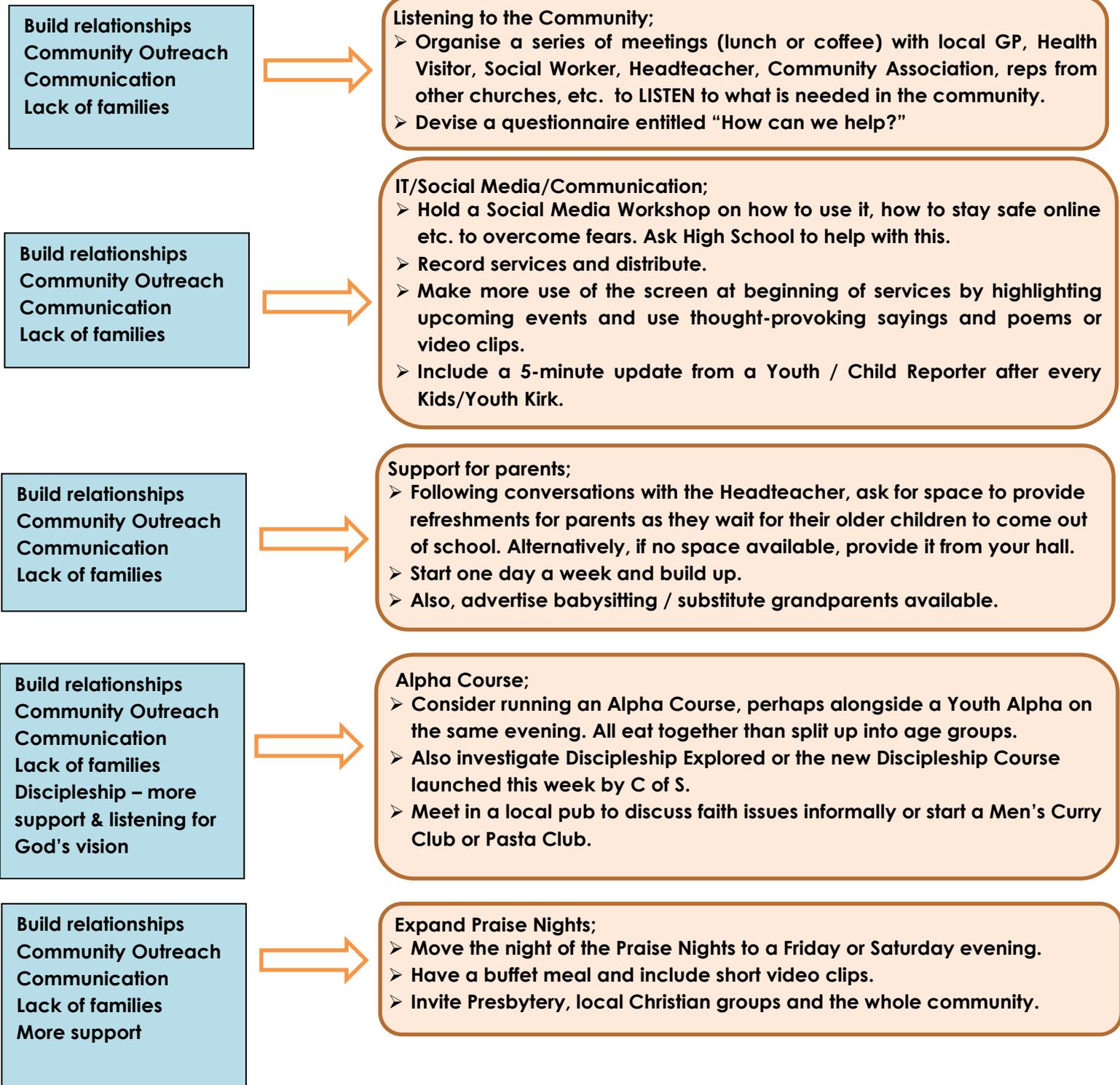
The conference, was facilitated by Margot Robertson and Fiona Penny (Stewardship Consultants) and 26 members of the Kirk Session and wider congregation attended. In small groups attendees were asked to highlight the 'Stepping Stone' moments in our church – the good times, celebrations and times when wonderful things happened to further God's Kingdom. We were able to highlight over twenty things that have happened, indeed some of which are still happening, in our church over the last couple of years or so.

Everyone was then invited to identify the current challenges within the church. We were invited to prioritise these 'Stumbling Blocks' to identify what the main themes and priorities emerging from this exercise were. Margo and Fiona produced a report, with the recommendations below.

Turning Stumbling Blocks Into Stepping Stones:

Identified Stumbling Blocks

Suggestions on how we might turn this into a Stepping Stone



We are now presented with a number of challenges, which have been discussed by the Stewardship Committee. As a result, we identified the first two groups above, "Listening to the Community" and "IT/Social Media/Communication" as the areas we should concentrate on first; endorsed by the Kirk Session.

George Smith. Stewardship Convenor

Services and Meetings

Sunday

10:15 a.m. All-age Worship (in Hall)
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
6:15 p.m. Evening Worship (as advertised)
6-7.30pm Youth Kirk (3rd Sunday of month) (Sept – June)

Monday

2.30 p.m. The Guild (Oct - March)

Tuesday

10.00 a.m. Chalmers Ramblers Walking Group
7.30 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Welcome Wednesday

10.30-11.30a.m. Chalmers Crafters (1st of month)
1.30 – 3pm Indoor Curling (1st & last 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)



OUR WORSHIP

Rev Robin Allison will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 20th October

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – God's Zoo – Tom Gordon
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – Rev Tom Gordon

Sunday 27th October

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Colin Sutherland
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship with Sacrament of
HOLY COMMUNION.
6.15p.m. Evening Worship

Sunday 3rd November

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Anne Sutherland
11.00 a.m. Morning 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 – God's Zoo – Amanda Johnston
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

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

10 - 10.45a.m. Stretch and Strength Exercise Class

Saturday

8.00 – 9.15a.m. Prayer Breakfast (last of month)
10am-12noon Kids Kirk (3rd Sat of month)
(Sept – June)

Sunday 24th November

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Ian Bulloch
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
6.15p.m. Evening Worship

Sunday 1st December – 1st in Advent

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Duncan Morgan
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 8th December – 2nd in Advent

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship
– George Smith
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship



It's that time of year again!

Will you please fill a shoebox? A simple shoebox, filled with love and fuelled with prayer can have a huge impact and bring joy to a child who may receive no other Christmas presents. Pre-printed shoeboxes and leaflets are available £1 each from Cathy Smith.

A change in import regulations mean that toothpaste and sweets can no longer be included, but plenty of room for other small gifts!

Please bring your filled shoeboxes to Church on
Sunday 3rd November.

MINISTER

Rev Robin Allison
Tel: 812225

TREASURER

Mr Ian Bulloch
Tel: 852717

FLOWER CONVENER

Mrs Lyn Marshall
Tel: 814265

SESSION CLERK

Mrs Mary Gordon
Tel: 812262

ACCESS to the HALL contact

Mr Tom Donaldson
Tel: 812023

ORGANIST

Mrs Pamela Zenati
Tel: 813641

HALL LETS

Mrs Dorothy Tervit
Tel: 898937

BEADLE

VACANCY

Tel:



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