



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Autumn 2012



From the Minister:

Dear All,
I am writing this on a rainy Sunday evening after some pleasant summery days, but now autumn seems to have arrived.

The summer holidays came with great fanfare: we had our first Holiday Club at Chalmers which was a great success and not only the children but we, the helpers, really enjoyed it. I think we were perhaps a bit surprised that we could really do this and that everything went so well. Some helpers so were so enthused that they couldn't wait until the next time and went to help with the clubs in Prestonpans and Tranent. So it was a good and encouraging experience. The children were really well behaved and Nicola Bruce said later that this has to do with the tone we set. It gave us the encouragement we needed to start to establish even more work with children at Chalmers Church. And this will be our task for this autumn.

We will develop a whole concept in our work with children of which the Sunday School and crèche will be part of. The idea is not to cease anything, but to put the existing work into a wider context. Chalmers has, like so many other churches, experienced a dramatic decline of Sunday School attendance; meanwhile Holiday Clubs

and Messy Church are extremely successful and the children in the schools are really interested in God and questions around faith and values. And I have seen in my old home congregation how a Saturday afternoon club over the years lead to more church attendance by young families and the restart of the Sunday School.

And that is what we are going to start: a Saturday afternoon class, perhaps once a month. A couple of times a year we will also invite the parents and then we can do crafts together. We are going to call this "Kids Kirk". And Kids Kirk will be the brand for all our work with children and young people. We hope to able to start a children's choir as well and all the activities we will be working on with the children might also feed into the main service. Pamela Zenati is very enthusiastic to get involved into work with children again, the choir was her idea and I am so looking forward to this work.

Our first Kids Kirk will be on 3rd November, so there is still some time for preparation but the Worship, Youth and Children and the Outreach Committees are already working hard to make this happen. There will also be a small steering group and hopefully lots of volunteers. If you would like to be part of either or both please contact

me. The date is fixed but there's still lots of work to do – so ideas and help are more than welcome!

There are also plans for starting another bible study group but the starting date for this was still undecided at the time of this newsletter's deadline for publication.

I hope we can all enjoy a bit more late-summer sun and enter refreshed into the work of this autumn when we can hopefully welcome many new people to our congregation.

With all good wishes,
God bless,
Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

MINISTER

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*(Please respect **Monday** as the Minister's day off)*

Invitation

A warm invitation is extended to the induction of Adam Hood to St. Andrews Wallace Green Church of Scotland, Berwick on 28th September at 7 p.m. The induction will be followed by a social at 8.30 p.m. - if you plan to come please give your name to Lyn Marshall (814265) by 31st August.

Why Not Read

Two books which can make us think about our faith. Both are available in paperback. It is planned that those who have read them could meet together sometime later in the year to discuss.

Both are easy to read and available in paperback. Please contact either Joyce Buchanan or Elizabeth Glover for further details.

Putting Away Childish Things: a tale of Modern Faith by Marcus Borg

The Shack by William Paul Young

The next Candle Coffee Club meeting
is on **Thursday 20th September**

Meeting at 10a.m in

'Longniddry Inn'.

All welcome



Thanks

Joyce Bowsher would like to thank the congregation for the flowers she received and concerns during her recent illness.

Funerals

On 12th July

Walter Ross

90yrs old, Port Seton

On 1st August

Rita Middlehurst,

82yrs old, Musselburgh
(formerly Port Seton)

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms - with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 4: 10 - 11 (NIV)

PRAYER DIARY

Wednesday: Give thanks for those who throughout the summer have kept on the Lunch Club, Coffee and Chat and Family Prayer Time. Pray that those who have been coming along may have felt something of God's love reaching out to them.

Thursday: Please pray for anyone known to you who are in desperate need of God's intervention in their life. Ask God to bring healing to bodies and minds, restoration to broken relationships and peace to those experiencing pain, turmoil, uncertainty and bereavement. Don't forget to thank the Lord for answered prayer!

Friday: As the new school term begins pray for all children especially in our community, starting school for the first time and for all young people starting colleges and universities. Remember those who have missed out on a place and have no prospects. Pray that they may not give up hope and may be encouraged to persevere.

Saturday: As we reflect on the great freedom, many opportunities and privileges we enjoy **plead** before God the cause of so many throughout the world who are suffering especially at this time Syria - we here cannot imagine what life must be like there. Pray that the Holy Spirit may work in the hearts of the leaders of the country and the United Nations to bring about peace. Pray especially for the Church in Syria that they be strengthened and able to stand firm in this great time of testing.

Sunday: Most Gracious Lord you are so good to us and we offer You our gratitude and praise for all the gifts you have given us. We thank You especially for the gift of forgiveness and new life which you offered us through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Help us; by the strength You have provided, to use the gifts we have been given in Your service and in all we do to honour your Name. Amen.

Monday: Give thanks for the success of the Olympic Games and for the wonderful feeling of togetherness that was felt throughout the country. Pray for the Paralympic Games about to begin and for all the athletes taking part. Pray that God will protect, strengthen and encourage each one as they strive to overcome their limitations.

Tuesday: Bring before God our Minister as she prepares for services week-by-week as well as keeping up with the many tasks with which she is faced. Uphold in prayer the various Committees of the Church as they deal with the many issues and tasks brought before them. Remember especially the Youth Committee as they explore ways of bringing young people into the Church fellowship and the urgent need of youth leaders.

Funeral Teas

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Women's Guild for the great work they have done for so many years in preparing the Funeral Teas. These Teas have served the church in so many ways. There is for one the sheer quality of the Chalmers Teas. I was so proud when "my new Guild" served this rather superior Tea at my induction, with the best egg sandwiches I have ever tasted and those delicious little cakes... Through the Teas the Guild has also contributed considerably to the Church Fabric Fund.

But these Teas have an even more important role than making the minister proud and filling the holes in the church roof: as Funeral Teas they give comfort to people in times of deep distress, a safe place to be and to share precious memories.

With the Teas the church is of real, practical help to people. The Funeral Teas are at the heart of what we call Pastoral Care. And they are Outreach too, because there are often at the Teas some people who may not have had much contact with the church but there they experience the love and care of Jesus Christ.

I would like to thank the Guild for all the love, care and hard work they have put into organising these Teas which have been a great service to the church and the people. Thank you for all you have given over the years!

I was using the "presence" in describing the importance of the Funeral Teas, because the good news is that they will continue! Joyce Buchanan and Moira Kaminski have agreed to hold the Funeral Tea Book for the next three years and I have been assured that many people will continue baking and making sandwiches. I have also been assured that the Guild china can still be used, which makes it all even more special and stresses the continuation - thank you all so much for all you contribute.

And God bless this very important work!

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

The next issue will be available on

Sunday 14th October 2012

Articles for this edition should be with me by

Sunday 30th September 2012

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

chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com

Or by phone on 819471

Sheila Bulloch

(The Christmas issue will be available on

Sunday 1st December 2012)

Some quotes from some children who attended our recent holiday club 6th & 7th July

What have you learned today?

'You can be friends with everyone' *Mary Beth*

'Making a tiger mask' *Katie Rose*

'I can make new friends; it doesn't matter where they are from' *Amy*

'God is always with me' *Millie*

'Making mushrooms for our stall' *Andrew*

Some of their favourite things:

'Crafts' *Millie*

'Parachute Games' *Mary Beth, Forbes & Craig*

'My new friends' *Katie Rose*

'Meeting the leaders' *Jamie*

'The Hot Seat' *Millie*

'Everything!' *Sula*

Chalmers Memorial Church Youth and Children's Committee

This new committee has met three times since its first meeting in May. Action and plans to date include:

Holiday Club: A very successful two day club was held in early July with a total of 31 children attending, 25 attending both days. (See opposite some quotes from the children) There were approximately 20 volunteers involved, giving their time and energy to this important new venture. A Christmas Holiday Club is being arranged to run on Saturday 8 December, *For more information and registration please contact Nicola Bruce: overhills@hotmail.com, 07711223100*

Kids Kirk: Plans for a Kids Kirk are being developed, to operate on Saturday afternoons, initially once every few weeks. Detailed planning is being led by the church minister, Kristina Herbold Ross, who has shared with the committee her experience of a Children's Church project in Germany. The date of the first meeting of Kids Kirk has been agreed as Saturday 3rd November.

It is being planned for 3-12 year old children and is seen as a useful follow-up to the Holiday Club. Pamela Zenati has suggested the possibility of a music group for young people and consideration will be given as to whether the development of a music group might be usefully incorporated into the Kids Kirk. Fuller information will be available nearer the time as plans develop.

Welcome Wednesday "Story Time": A story time for children has become a regular feature of the Welcome Wednesday Coffee Morning, having been led so far by Fiona Farquhar, Ann Anderson and Patricia Knox.

Community youth work/street work: The committee has been informed by YMCA Edinburgh, which is already involved as a Christian youth work organisation in Ross High and Preston Lodge Secondary Schools, to seek funding in order to appoint two street youth workers. The plan is for them to work on Friday evenings in Port Seton, making contact with young people on the streets, building up contacts and trust, developing work with them as and when possible. YMCA Edinburgh had undertaken useful initial street contacts with local young people in Port Seton in May. The Committee welcomed this initiative and offered prayer support to the work.

John Knox

What is a committee and why should I do outreach?

One year in, the new committees of the Kirk Session are getting to work and it is exciting to see all these people contributing to the work of Chalmers Church. However, there is still some uncertainty what the committees are actually for. Some people, who previously signed up to be members of a committee, don't come to the meetings and I understand that is because they are still a bit unsure what it is all about. The committees are a great opportunity for members who are not Elders, to be a part of and have a real impact on "what is going on", and for Elders to work in a certain field they would like to help shape this congregation. We have currently seven committees: **Worship, Pastoral Care, Youth & Children, Outreach & Public Relations, Finance and Fabric.**

The Kirk Session delegates work to a certain committee and they report back to the Kirk Session. But a committee can also come up with its own ideas for work in the congregation (e.g. the Pastoral Care Committee felt it important that the Funeral Teas should continue and took the lead in this), report that to the Kirk Session and the Session then decides what will be done. The convener of the Pastoral Care and the Worship Committee is the minister but the conveners of the other committees can be either an Elder or a member.

To be member of a committee is a great opportunity to make a real impact! There are still some uncertainties as to the remit of each committee and that is the reason why I am going to present one committee with its work and convener in each edition of the newsletter.

The committee most people are uncertain about seems to be the **Outreach & Public Relation Committee.** "Outreach" is actually at the very heart of our mission as the Church, because it means reaching out to people, making sure that they hear the Good News. Outreach is the mission and the duty of the congregation as a whole and of each and every one of us. And the Outreach Committee ensures that this happens. They make sure that the people "out there" get to know us and our work; they devise the right publicity so that we can reach out to the people. But this committee also sees it as its task to ensure that we as individuals are equipped to reach out to people by learning how to communicate the Good News and to talk in an appropriate way about why our faith is so important to us. Outreach is more than opening the church door but about telling people what is going on and why this might be relevant to them and also to reach out to where they are.

This can involve press work, leafleting, creating posters, the website, banners, bible classes, involvement in activities such as the Three Harbours Festival and much more. If you are interested in being part of this committee please contact its **convener Joyce Buchanan.**

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

At a recent meeting of the committee concerns were voiced about how we can so easily forget about members of our congregation who now live in residential or care homes especially when they suffer from dementia.

At the moment Margaret Stewart (Daisy Flockhart) and Mrs Kay are in different homes in North Berwick. Mrs Demianczuk is in Tranent, Mrs Dorothy Sowden in Musselburgh. If any of their friends who are unable to visit due to lack of transport could let our minister Kristina or the co-ordinator Elizabeth Glover (818759) know we may try to organise groups to visit.

Others too are no longer able to come to Church so please let us know of anyone who would like more visitors.

Often people cannot attend church because of lack of transport. Many of those who have in the past brought people to church are no longer able so if anyone has a spare seat and would be able to pick someone up at any time, please also speak to Kristina or Elizabeth. It is hoped too that we could arrange for those more housebound to come to the Welcome Wednesday activities. Please let us know if you would like to come or can help with transport.

Finally, any of the male members of the congregation who could spare some time to visit please also let us know.

The Church is God's family so we do not want anyone to feel left out for any reason. Please remember those who are not around so regularly in your prayers and please, those of you who are unable to get out as much, your prayers for those who strive to keep the Church alive for the present and future generations are much needed and appreciated.

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)
12-2p.m. Lunches (3rd of month)
10a.m – 12noon Coffee Time (last of month)

Wednesday – Evening Activities

- 5:15 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

- 5:00 p.m. Rainbows }
6:30 p.m. Brownies } (Sept. - June)

Saturday

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



OUR WORSHIP

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 2nd September

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

Sunday 9th September

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

Sunday 16th September

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship
– Nicola BRUCE
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 23rd September

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

Sunday 30th September

(Please note No 10.15 a.m. service)

- 11.00 a.m. HARVEST THANKSGIVING
6.15p.m Harvest of the Sea

Sunday 7th October

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

Sunday 14th October

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

Sunday 21st October

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

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

Mr Ian Bulloch
Tel: 852717

BEADLE

Mr Duncan Morgan
Tel: 812071

PRAYER SECRETARY

Mrs Alice Hood
Tel: 812191



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

SC004630 Cockenzie and Port Seton: Chalmers Memorial Parish Church 'Scottish Charity'.