



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Autumn 2022



It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him. Deuteronomy 13:4

The Manse, October 2022

Dear Friends,

It's been a busy start to the "new session" at Chalmers Church as we emerge out of the Summer Months into Autumn and soon to be winter. With all the restrictions we've been living with in recent times now lifted we've seen our hall being used for activities most days of the week as well as more people returning to worship. Please don't forget, however, that our podcast continues week by week. It can be found at: <https://chalmersmemorialchurch2020.podbean.com/> There you will find reflections and prayers from all our recent services. Many have commented that they find them helpful when they are not able to be at worship in person.

With this newsletter you will also be receiving information about our "Weekend of Celebration" on the last weekend of October – a display of memorabilia and current activities in the Church Hall on Saturday 29th October and a special service of re dedication on Sunday 30th October at 11am (only one service that day). I cannot commend this to you highly enough. We are what we are because of what we share and what we have, in the gracious goodness of God, built together. What we do both now and in the future is always dependent on the talents we are willing and able to share. This is our calling.

At the same time, as you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, we are now officially about to commence discussions, in accordance with the approved presbytery plan, with our friends and neighbours at the Old Parish Church about a future union. It has, admittedly, taken a while to reach this stage but the Kirk Session and I know from what many others have told me, feel that this is the right direction to be moving. Please pray for those tasked with representing our Church at this time within this process and please know that, should you wish to find out more or share some thoughts with me, that I am more than happy to listen. We all have insights to share and, as we move forward, we will seek to continue building the unity of Christ's Church – something I vowed to do in my vows not only of ordination the best part of 28 years plus ago but when I came here to Chalmers Church as your minister just over 4 and a half years ago.

I am reminded of the words of the old chorus which speaks about this and with which I finish. You'll know the tune!!!

*For I'm building a people of power,
And I'm making a people of praise
That will move through this land by My Spirit,
And will glorify My precious name.
Build Your church, Lord,
Make us strong, Lord,
Join our hearts, Lord, through Your Son.
Make us one, Lord,
In Your Body,
In the kingdom of Your Son.*

Your friend and Minister
Robin Allison (Rev)

Our Minister
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Children and Youth News

Kids Kirk returned for a new session in September. This term we are covering the **Bible Olympics Games**, where we are exploring sport through the bible, we are looking at stories from the Old and New Testament. We welcomed new children who had lots of fun at our first sessions. These run on the 3rd Saturday of the month 10am – 12noon, for children in P1-P7.

In December, we pause the Olympics for a special **Christmas Session** so pop the date in your diary – **Saturday 17th December 10am-1pm** We will have a special puppet show to share the Christmas story. Families are welcome to come along from 12.15pm and join us for a bite to eat.



This term we hoped to relaunch our **Youth Kirk** but have decided to take a break from this as we build up some young helpers in **Kids Kirk**. We welcomed Lilly to our team in September. Please pray for this aspect of outreach. More details on our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/chalmersmemorial> or text on 07980 059 974.
God Bless. *Sheila, Amanda & Irene*

Presbytery Plan Update

There continues to be progress being made in the implementation of the Lothian Presbytery Plan. As mentioned in previous editions of this newsletter, this plan has principally three main aspects which affect our congregation. The first is that we will enter a parish grouping or general working partnership with Longniddry Parish Church. Secondly, this partnership is specifically to enable Chalmers and Longniddry to develop a mission strategy for the new Blindwells estate. Thirdly the presbytery of Lothian is seeking a union between Chalmers Memorial and Cockenzie Old Parish Church. The proposal includes that I would become minister of the united congregation and that the Chalmers building would be retained, with the building of Cockenzie Old being sold, or we hope, being bought by the local community for community usage. All these options have to be explored more fully. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the first of the discussions will have taken place on the 13th of October. We are being represented by myself, Mary Gordon (Session clerk), Colin Sutherland (Presbytery elder), George Smith (elder) and Lyn Marshall (elder). Please also note that no final decisions can or will take place until there has been a congregational vote in both churches at a date still to be determined. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or to speak to your elder.

Rev Robin Allison.

Communion Arrangements

It has been quite special to be able to again share bread and wine at our communion services in June and September, though reducing physical contact by not passing bread and wine to each other as previously.

We have received mostly very positive feedback in relation to the arrangements made to do this, and so the Session has agreed to keep this format in place meantime, taking into account one or two small points made.

**Mary Gordon,
Session Clerk**

Finance & Fabric

I have submitted a Gift Aid Claim to HMRC covering the six months ended 30 June 2022 for £7,486.83 which is similar to the same period last year. Thank you to all who contribute through the Gift Aid scheme. Remember if you are a taxpayer and haven't signed up, please do so as we can claim back 25% of your donation without it costing you a penny. Similarly, if you were a taxpayer and are not now, please let me know and I will stop claiming.

Not a lot happened on the fabric front over the summer, at least until pigeons managed to find their way into the belfry. It appears the wire mesh behind the louvred slats as rusted or become detached. A quote has been accepted to have this fixed as soon as possible. A quote has also been accepted to replace the wooden/glass facing in the lobby between the Church and Hall which is badly rotten in places, letting water in. The recent stormy weather indicate water is entering the Church from one of the east facing windows. We had this looked at earlier in the year, and it has been a problem for some years, so obviously the contractors have still been unable to find the root cause.

We still have a number of things needing attention starting with the weathervane and steeple - that has been delayed until next year. The electric system is due to be checked as are all the electric appliances on the premises as well as the fire extinguishers and the lightning conductor. The trees in the garden are also needing to be cut back and the improvements needed to the manse kitchen are still outstanding.

To complete the above list will cost somewhere in the region of £30,000 albeit, hopefully, we will be able to recover the VAT for work specifically done on the Church building. This brings me back to Gift Aid. If you are a taxpayer and are not contributing via the Gift Aid scheme, please do so.

John Murdoch

Communication To Members

With directions on Covid restrictions now withdrawn, we still aim for an awareness of being sensible not to spread infection, and some of the practical arrangements made in the last 2 years should continue, meantime at least.

The Service Podcasts, will continue to be accessible online for those who cannot attend in person, and the phone line provided by Twilio will also give access to our recorded services each week. We will continue to provide printed copies where required.

When visiting homes was not permitted, many members provided email addresses to their elders for circulation, not only of Podcasts, but also of newsletters and other necessary updates. The Session noted that our former printing contact for the church is no longer available, and cost for printing would rise considerably if we revert to circulation of hard copies - especially if produced in colour. Environmental reasons also encourage us to reduce printing where possible, so we hope those members will be happy to continue to receive information by email. But also, if any of you receive a paper copy and would be happy to supply your email address for this purpose, do let your elder know.

Email addresses provided for this purpose would currently be kept by your elder only. Our Data Protection Policy, displayed on the hall notice board, assures that your email address would be used, as other contact details, 'for future use in connection with the work of the congregation' of which you are a member. *Mary Gordon, Session Clerk*

Stewardship Committee

Very many thanks to all who took part and those who came along to our Autumn Fair. It was a fun afternoon to which a number from our village came along. We raised a wonderful £1,102.

The weekend of **Saturday and Sunday 29th & 30th October** will be a weekend of **Celebration, Thanksgiving and Rededication**. In the Church Hall there will be lots of photos, newspaper cuttings and articles reflecting the history of our church. In addition, we are asking those groups which use the Hall to prepare displays telling us about themselves. The Hall will be open **on Saturday 29th October between 10am and 12 and 1.30pm to 3.30pm**. If you have any items, e.g., old photos, which we could use in our display please let George Smith know as soon as you can.

We have designated **Sunday 30th October** as this year's **Day of Giving**. There is a letter with details of this with your Newsletter. We are always grateful for your continuing support. You will also find a response form "**Can You Help**" with the Newsletter. The object of the exercise is one of encouragement and an attempt to identify skills and talents among our congregation that we may not be aware of. The detail in it is self-explanatory and we simply ask that you read through it, please, and consider your response.

After a long break, a **Quiz Night** is planned for the evening of **Friday 11th November**. We're looking forward to another quiz with Tom Gordon as Quiz Master. Look out for more details; it will be a fun night and Tom assures me the questions won't be too difficult!

George Smith

News from the Churches Together Group

This year's Remembrance Sunday Service at the Cockenzie and Port Seton War Memorial will take place at **10.50am on 13th November** and will be led by the Methodist Minister Rev. James Patron Bell, with the British Legion and Community Council representatives worshipping at Chalmers Memorial following the service at the Memorial.

An afternoon tea to raise some funds for **Christian Aid** is planned for the afternoon of **Saturday 26th November at 2.30pm**. This will be held in the Old Parish Hall, but will be a joint effort by all three churches.

There will be a joint **Advent Songs of Praise** on **Sunday 27th November 2022 at 6.30pm** in our church.

There has been a suggestion that we might hold a joint service on Marathon Sundays. Access to the Old Kirk and the Methodist Church is so restricted that they are unable to worship as normal. Our location is such that this is less problematic.

Our Group continues to meet in order to plan things together ensure we can do everything to keep the churches work and identity to the fore in our village.

George Smith - Convener

Funerals since last newsletter

Janet "Toni" Stewart, Summerlee, Prestonpans,
25th May 2022

Jean Baillie, North Seton Park, Port Seton,
23rd June 2022

Joyce Hunnam, Gullane,
5th October 2022

Nancy Hunnam, West Harbour Road,
Cockenzie, 10th October 2022



Sunday

10:00am - All-age Worship (in Hall, led by the worship team)
 11:00am - Morning Worship

Monday

6-8.30pm - Beavers and Cubs

Tuesday

10.00am - Chalmers Ramblers Walking Group
 6.00-7.30pm - Brownies
 7.00pm - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)
 8.00-10pm - AA Group

Wednesday

10.30am - Chalmers Crafters (1st Wednesday of month)
 10am - 12 - Coffee and Chat (Last of month)
 1.30-3.00pm - Indoor Curling (1st and Last of month)
 1.30-3.00pm - Get Together (2nd of month)
 5.00-6.15pm - Rainbows
 7.00-9.00pm - Scouts

Thursday

6.00-8.00pm - Brownies

Friday

10.15-11am - Stretch and Strength Exercise Class
 10.30am-2pm - AA Group

Saturday

10.00am-12 noon - Kids Kirk (3rd Saturday of month)



OUR WORSHIP

Rev Robin Allison will conduct worship unless otherwise stated

Sunday 23rd October

10.00am All-Age Worship – Ian Bulloch
 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 30th October - Celebration Weekend

11.00am Morning Worship (no 10am service)

Sunday 6th November

10.00am All-Age Worship – Rev Robin Hill
 11.00am Morning Worship – Rev Robin Hill
 Pulpit Swap with Longniddry & Gladsmuir

Sunday 13th November

10.50am Service at War Memorial
 11.15am (approx.)
 Remembrance Service

**Sunday 20th November**

10.00am All-Age Worship – Robin Allison
 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 27th November

10.00am All-Age Worship – George Smith
 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 4th December

10.00am All-Age Worship – Tom Gordon
 11.00am Morning Worship with Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 11th December

10.00am All-Age Worship – Colin Sutherland
 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 18th December

10.00am All-Age Worship – Amanda Johnston
 11.00am Morning Worship

After a long absence, we are pleased to announce our Coffee and Chat resumes on Wednesday 26th October, 10am – 12noon. We will meet monthly thereafter on the last Wednesday of the month (Except December). All welcome.

**MINISTER**

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BEADLE

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