



FINAL Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Autumn 2024



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Dear Friends,

The Manse, September 2024

I've written final letters to congregations before. Usually those are the letters Ministers write just before they move to a new charge and just before they expect the removal company to trundle up to the door to pack and move their earthly belongings.

This time around though, this "final" letter brings with it no move and no removal van. But it does bring with it thoughts about our forthcoming union with the Old Parish Church. And it will bring a change of name for our congregation (something I know many feel very sad about). It will bring some changes to office bearers and there will be a new Kirk Session and some challenging decisions to take.

All of this we recognise. However, there are some things that won't change. The regular preacher won't change! It will be my privilege to continue as Minister... and I know that you will continue to work tirelessly for your Church. Much of what you will find in the "new Church", despite talk of change, will still seem familiar. And, of course, the gospel we celebrate and proclaim will still be the same.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" proclaims Hebrews 13 and verse 8.
"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" says John 3 and verse 16.

I wish to pay the sincerest tribute possible to the Church Union Steering Group whose candour, faithfulness and faith has guided us to this stage. I wish to thank the Kirk Session for their unwavering support and understanding and to acknowledge that, during my now 6 and a half years as your minister, that I have worked with some of the finest office bearers I have ever worked with. I have shared ministry with people who have prayed and worked, cooked and cleaned, sung and listened to God's word preached. What an awesome privilege it has been!!!

I also want to thank, without reserve, the congregation and Kirk Session of the Old Parish Church. On October 20th, on the same day as we mark this important junction point, they will be marking their last time worshipping in their building. They will also be taking on a new Minister. I want them to know that they are truly amongst friends who understand.

And so, folks, we move on. It's been a journey but, as I have said on numerous occasions in recent months, our God has a habit of calling folk into journeys. It seems to be what he does and when he does, he always journeys with us. May it continue to be so.

Your Friend and Minister, Robin Allison (Rev)

Our Minister

Rev Robin N Allison

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Funerals since last newsletter

Graham Imrie - on 24th June 2024

Joyce Bowsher - on 29th August 2024

Marion Dickson - on 3rd September 2024



Children and Youth News



Kids Kirk returns for a new session on **Saturday 21st September** with our new theme – **Adventure Cruise** where we will Cruise the high C's and meet people along the way whose lives changed course when they met Jesus. **Kids Kirk** is open to children in primary 1 through to primary 7. The sessions run 10am – 12noon on the 3rd Saturday of the month. If you would like to join the team working with the children or helping at Feast Time, please speak to us for more information.



Please contact Sheila to request further information. <https://www.facebook.com/chalmersmemorial> or text - 07980 059 974. God Bless, *Sheila, Amanda, and team*

Thanks

Anna McPhee would like to thank the church family for the cards, flowers, gifts and visits during her recent illness. They were very much appreciated.

Sylvia Imrie and family would like to thank the church for the flowers, cards, comforting words and support. They were appreciated after the passing of Graham.

Cathy Rintoul's family wish to say thank you for the church flowers and the many kind and thoughtful cards and messages they received when Cathy passed away. Thank you to those who joined the family at the services at Chalmers and Seafield. The collection taken in memory of Cathy raised £540 for the Macular Society.

Maggie Ross would like to thank everyone for the lovely floral arrangement she received from the church and the many cards and gifts she was given on the occasion of her 100th birthday. A great afternoon at her party was had by all. She also received a beautiful arrangement from the guild which she attended faithfully for years. Thank you all for your kind thoughts. They were much appreciated. God Bless.

Stepping Stones

Chalmers' Bereavement Support programmes

Stepping Stones



A Local Bereavement Support Programme

Helping you at a difficult time

Following a review of our work, the *Stepping Stones* programmes are beginning again, but in a different format.

Instead of offering a six-week programme, the team are planning a series of "drop-in" evenings. These are open to people in our church and community who are living with bereavement, or anyone who is looking for advice about bereavement issues. The focus will be on support, reassurance and sharing, in a warm, friendly and caring environment.

These will take place on the second Tuesday of the month, from October onwards, in the **Port Seton Community Centre**, from 7 to 8.30pm. The dates are **Tuesday 8th October, 12th November and 10th December 2024.**

Dates for 2025 will be confirmed later. Please publicise this as widely as possible.

Further information is available from

steppingstones.mail@gmail.com or from **Tom Gordon** at **01875 812262.**

Session Section for September 2024

Since early in 2023, the Kirk Session has continued to keep a focus on the everyday running and maintenance of our church, while being asked to plan for one of the things everyone tries to avoid – **change!** With God's guidance, in prayer, with sensitivity and with careful thought, now we come to move into union with our neighbours in Cockenzie Old Parish Church.

In consultation and discussion, we found that the fundamentals of our churches' focus, our aims and objectives for Christian life and witness in this Community, have been very much the same! The fear of difference has very much dissipated, and we have already shared together in both practical planning meetings, and some moving worship experiences.

The final Kirk Session of Chalmers Memorial Church will take place on 19th September, and our committees and groups will give final reports, before the Union will result in the need for them to re-form with a slight change in personnel, and an opportunity to identify their own remits within the new congregation.

The theory has been agreed! So now we take a moment to hesitate in our moving forward, and look back to the journey that has brought each one of us to this faith, to this place, and to this moment of giving thanks for what has been.

Then will be the time to **change** indeed. The *theory* will change to *practice* after our service of Union on 27th October. The first Kirk Session meeting of Cockenzie and Port Seton Parish Church is already in our diaries - **Wednesday 13th November at 7.30pm**, in the Church Hall, and then, again with your support, the work will continue...

Mary Gordon, Session Clerk

Fabric

Over the summer period it has been the case of keeping the buildings and grounds in as good a condition as possible. The dormer window has been fixed but not yet tested for stormy weather conditions. As a listed building we were able to recover over £4,000 paid in VAT relative to the steeple and window repairs.

The gardens are largely weed free and looking good. Thanks to all who have helped. The downstairs window sills at the manse have been replaced and re-painted but there is still some work needed to fix the gutters and drainpipes.

This will be the last report from the present Fabric Committee before we embark on the implications of the Union from a Property point of view and thanks to everyone who has contributed to the upkeep of the buildings over many years.

John Murdoch

YOUR RESPONSES TO MOVING FORWARD

Many of you will have completed a 'Response Form' which was given out after the joint August meeting on how our new congregation will be structured with newly appointed Committees and working groups – all of which any member will be eligible to join. If you have not filled in a form, and wish to find out more about what you could offer to help with any of the church's functions as a new congregation – from reading a lesson in worship, helping with teas on a Sunday, to donating or distributing flowers, assisting with visiting or helping on a committee – do have a word with myself or your elder. We will pass your details so that the relevant person can get back to you.

Many thanks, Mary Gordon, Session Clerk

A note from George Smith - A number of people have asked me why I am retiring from the Kirk Session, so I thought it worthy of explanation. I was ordained as an elder in 1987 at Callander Kirk and in 1991 moved to Lochmaben, Dumfriesshire. For my last 8 years there I was Treasurer and then Session Clerk (it was there that I trained as a worship leader), before moving to Port Seton in 2013.

It had always been my intention to retire when I reached the age of 80 in January 2023, however I was asked to serve on the Steering Group working towards the union of our two churches. With this complete I am now stepping down.

Can I thank you all for the support you have given me in the roles I have enjoyed at Chalmers and I look forward to continuing my support for the work of our new Church.

Sunday

10:00am - All-age Worship (in Hall, led by the worship team)
 11.00am - Morning Worship

Monday

2.30pm - Guild (1st Monday of the Month) (Oct-March)
 6.00-8.30pm - Beavers and Cubs

Tuesday

10.00am - Chalmers Walking Group
 2.00-3.30pm - Chest, Heart and Stroke Group
 (every second week)

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)

10.00am - 12noon - Coffee and Chat (Last of month)

1.30-3.00pm - Indoor Kurling (1st and Last of month)

1.30-3.00pm - Get Together (2nd of month)

5.00-6.15pm - Rainbows

Thursday

6.00-8.00pm - Brownies

Friday

10.30-11.30am - Keep fit class.

10.00am-2.00pm - AA Group

7.00pm-9.00pm - Scouts

Saturday

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

**OUR WORSHIP**

Rev Robin Allison will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 22nd September

10.00am All-Age Worship – Amanda Johnston

11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 29th September

10.00am All-Age Worship – Rev Robin Allison

11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 6th October

10.00am All-Age Worship – Mary Gordon

11.00am Morning Worship –



Harvest
Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 13th October

10.00am All-Age Worship – Anne Sutherland

11.00am Morning Worship –

Guest Preacher – Rev Bob Glover

Sunday 20th October

No 10am Service

11.00am Morning Worship –

our final service before the Union

Sunday 27th October

No 10am Service

11.00am Morning Worship – Service of Union

Sunday 3rd November

No 10am Service

11.00am Morning Worship

– **First service of the United Congregation**

Sunday 10th November

10.50am Service at War Memorial

11.30am Remembrance Service

**Sunday 17th November**

10.00am All-Age Worship – Tom Gordon

11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 24th November

10.00am All-Age Worship – Colin Sutherland

11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 1st December

10.00am All-Age Worship – George Smith

11.00am Morning Worship –

First Holy Communion after the Union

MINISTER

Rev Robin N Allison

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TREASURER

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FLOWER CONVENER

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BEADLE

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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