



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Christmas 2013



Dear All,

‘The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us and we have seen his glory.’

(John 1: 14)

These words are so familiar that we easily fail to see how wonderful they really are. They are pure revelation because they tell us the way God himself is: Not just God and mighty for himself, but God for us – our God. These words are his message: He loved the world so much that he sent us his own beloved son that we might have forgiveness and love in abundance to share. The very message come true: the word became flesh, a real human being. God with us.

These words become flesh for us at Christmas. But they also remain a bit distant at the same time. It is not the kind of language we are used to. It is no worldly language. ‘The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us and we have seen his glory.’ – These are words to be in awe of. They are true for us the whole year round – and said in so many different ways to us when we read the bible or pray or experience God’s love

– but in this clarity they are reserved for us for Christmas. And then they are out in all their glory.

But their glory is of a subtle nature. They are not glittery at all but have a very deep and special sparkle. They are the present to which the tree and the turkey want to point us. ‘The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us and we have seen his glory.’ – In these modest words God comes to us and we can see his glory. May God give that our hearts and minds and doors are open for HIS glory; and that we might be touched by the sparkle and pass it on that there might be love and peace on earth.

Have a wonderful Christmas, full of love and joy, and a blessed New Year 2014,
God be with you,
Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

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

Pastoral Care Group

After careful consideration the Kirk Session has turned the “Pastoral Care Committee” into “Pastoral Care Group”, acknowledging that this sensitive service, which is at the heart of the ministry of the Kirk Session and the Minister, did not sit easily with a committee. The role of the new group is to support the Kirk Session, the Minister and the whole congregation in their Pastoral service for each other and the community. This involves making sure that everybody who needs extra support is covered as well as offering support and training to all those who do Pastoral work.

The word “pastor” is the Latin word for “shepherd”, and those who do pastoral work look after the spiritual wellbeing of others. Pastoral Care can take various different shapes and nearly all of us do it one way or other. Pastoral Care is often associated with home visits, but it can also be a phone call, contact on facebook, a word at the local shop, lending people an ear, making sure that they are all right. It is not limited to the elderly but people of all ages can be in need of a bit of extra encouragement. This can involve a prayer but doesn’t necessarily have to. Whenever we are there for others in the spirit of Christ we do HIS work, i.e. Pastoral work. Caring for the people God sends us can be difficult and demanding and we would like to encourage all who are involved with this work to join our new group.

The convener of the Pastoral Care Group is the Minister, with the Pastoral Care Coordinator Elizabeth Glover being the vice-convener.

In 2014 the Group is planning to give priority to the area of bereavement and will start off with an afternoon of “Exploration of Bereavement Issues”, facilitated by the Rev Tom Gordon, 8 March, 2pm. All who are interested are invited to come. More information nearer at the time!

Cleaning Rota – URGENT!

We are desperately looking for more volunteers to clean the church hall facilities. The more people we get the less you need to do it! There isn’t too much involved and normally takes 2 people an hour to do it. Can YOU help? If so please speak to Sheila Bulloch for more information on what is required before the end of the year so the rota can be drawn up.



Operation Christmas Child

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made a shoebox or donated money. We collected 93 boxes and 8,400 boxes were sent off to Belarus recently from Edinburgh and Lothians.

Christmas Services

Sunday 22nd December (4th in ADVENT)

11.00 a.m. Family Service with Christmas Stories
and Carols

Followed by CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

6.00 – 7.00 p.m. Family Carol Service

11.30 p.m. Watchnight Service

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Congregational Christmas Family Lunch



*This will be served after the
Family Service on
Sunday 22nd December, in the hall.*



*Please come along and join us for a bowl of soup
and some mince pies! Donations at the door*

From Scotland to the Holy Land – People, places and pilgrimage.

In October the Chalmers Guild greatly appreciated a presentation from Alison Mack, Mary and Tom Gordon on their participation in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land earlier this year. Alison, Mary and Tom are happy to be asked to share this reflection with the wider congregation and other interested people on:

Thursday 16th January 2014,
at 7.30pm in the Church Transept.
All are welcome.

Faith Course

The Worship
Committee is preparing
a faith course “Back to
Basics” to run early
2014.

More information soon!



Superbook

Christmas Holiday Club

28 Children from Cockenzie and Port Seton enjoyed a fun filled day at our Christmas Holiday Club. There was a team of leaders from all the local churches. The children learned about the true meaning of Christmas through games, songs, crafts and the Superbook film with Chris, Joy and Gizmo! The next Holiday Club will be at Easter, watch out for publications in the New Year.

If you know a child that might be interested or would like to attend the monthly Kids Kirk's please contact Sheila at KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or text on 07980 059 974

Welcome Wednesday

Get Together

We celebrated our first year in November. It has been a great first year with old & new friends enjoying an afternoon of fun and chat.

Our programme has been very varied - quizzes, musical afternoons & speakers. We have also had some great theme teas - Christmas, Easter, & our lovely Strawberry Tea.

Over the past year we have donated £385.00 to various charities. We thank all who come to the Get Together for their generous donations each month. All the leaders look forward to seeing old & new friends in the New Year. Should you need any information or need a lift contact Ann or Moyra.

Our Church – an explanation of the Interior Decoration and Symbolism

Our Church is full of elaborate stencil work. The fish will catch your eye. This was the secret sign of the early Christians used during the times of persecution to identify one another. Also quite prominently illustrated are the waves of the sea which remind of the stilling of the storm by Jesus. On the east and west walls, just above the stonework, the design of a dove may be seen. In Genesis Ch8 v6-12, you will read how Noah sent forth a dove when it returned with an olive leaf in its mouth he knew that the waters of the flood had subsided. You will also see the symbol of the Burning Bush; this reminds us of God's call to Moses.

PRAYERS

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Isaiah 9 v 6



Advent Prayer

O Lord, again with the turning of the year we begin our pilgrimage toward Christmas. Our hearts as ever rejoice in the glad tidings of Christ who is born in Bethlehem to be the Saviour of all the world. Yet with all our joy, and the long centuries of hearts made glad by His coming, we know there is much in us that deafens our ears to the sound of angel anthems, much that blinds us to the sight of guiding stars amid the darkness, much that crowds our hearts and minds, leaving little room for the humbler blessings of this life. If for this season we may become pure hearted, if now we can welcome you with all our soul, then grace us with your most wondrous blessing through Christ who was born to be the light of the world forever.

Thank you, God for the magnificence of your word as we have it in the scriptures; for the great stories and the great men and women through whom your truth was brought to people long ago; through whom your truth still comes if we are attentive. Thank you for men and women of our own times who make the scriptures live for us: theologians, preachers, teachers. Thank you that your word is still alive and active to keep us calm and sane and strong in the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.

We remember those of our congregation who are ill and those in hospital. We thank you for the children who have come to the Holiday Club and for all the helpers who gave time and energy to make it so successful. May we all have a very wonderful and blessed Christmas.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on **Sunday 9th February 2014**. Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 23rd January 2014**

If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on: chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com or by phone on 819471

Sheila Bulloch

Thanks

Helen Morgan would like to thank the ladies of the church who contributed to the knitting for the fish and chip babies in Africa. Our final total was 120 sets of jumpers and hats and 4 cosy crocheted blankets. Thanks for a great effort.

Fiona Farquhar would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and prayers during the loss of her father.

Funerals

On 6th November 2013
Mary Wilson Smith,
Levenhall Nursing Home,
(formally Port Seton),
98yrs old.

On 28th November 2013
James (Mac) McNally,
Port Seton, 78 yrs old.

Chalmers Memorial Church Youth and Children's Committee Updates

Kids' Kirk: Dates have been agreed for Kids' Kirk meetings in early 2014, to be held on 18th January, 15th February and 22nd March, meeting 10am - 12noon.

Sunday morning: The All Age Service at 10.15am continues to be a very important part of Sunday morning for many of us in the church family, with the added joy of sharing with those children attending. The services are relaxed and informal, with lively singing and relevant and clear Bible teaching. We pray that God will continue to bless us in what is an invaluable half hour.

Sunday Club has used the recently developed rota system, but the number of children attending has varied greatly from five down to as few as one child, which makes it very difficult for both leaders and children. The need is evident for further and urgent thought and prayer regarding the best way we can cater for children on Sunday mornings.

Wider outreach and especially among teenagers:

Informal discussions within the church family indicate that this is a continuing concern in the church family. At the last Committee meeting it was recognised that such work could not be speedily developed. It may well require new and creative ways of thinking and perhaps the development of new ways of working. In light of this the value of working in close partnership with various experienced Christian youth work organisations was discussed.

Boys Brigade: As reported in the October Newsletter, the Committee has asked the Kirk Session to consider the best way of responding to the Church's responsibility for the Christian Education of the boys in accordance with the "BB Mission Statement, Regulations and Procedures"

Please continue to keep all this work in your thoughts and prayers.

John Knox

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)
1.30 - 3pm Get Together (2nd of month)
12-2p.m. Lunches (3rd of month)
10a.m - 12noon Coffee Time (last of month)

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

- 1 – 3.30pm Childcare Intermediate 1 Group
(Aug – April)

Saturday

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

OUR WORSHIP

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.



Sunday 15th December (3rd in Advent)

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Anne SUTHERLAND
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 22nd December (4th in Advent)

- 11.00 a.m. Family Service with Church Nativity and
Followed by CONGREGATIONAL

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

(Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE)



Sunday 29th December

- 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

(Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE)

Service in 2014

Sunday 5th January (Epiphany)

- 11.00 a.m. Joint Church Service with Cockenzie Old
Parish and Cockenzie Methodist Church in Chalmers –
Ian BULLOCH

(Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE)

Sunday 12th January

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Anne SUTHERLAND
11.00 a.m. Souper Sunday Service with various members

Sunday 19th January

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

Sunday 26th January

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

Sunday 2nd February

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

Sunday 9th February

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship –

Rev Kristina HERBOLD ROSS

- 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

MINISTER

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

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