



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Christmas 2014



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (Isaiah 7: 14)

Dear Friends in Chalmers Memorial,

It is a real pleasure to send you a note at this time of year when special contacts are made through all variety of Christmas greetings. We wish each other the joy and happiness of Christmas and we mean it - not in some shallow way but in the hope that Christmas will in some extra way come to bring an new dimension to each person, community, nation and indeed the whole world. They are wishes of love, peace and goodwill to those who need them most. The gifts offered by God to the World in his Son.

When I was acting as a locum minister in London, one day I saw on the door of a taxi the advice "Seize the day and your lover"! As it pulled away I think I gleaned the information that this was a Mayan proverb. The first bit - "Seize the day" is well enough known. It often appears in Latin "Carpe Diem" as the motto of various schools, colleges and other institutions. It comes from the Roman poet Horace but he does not go on in terms of seizing one's lover - rather the quotation goes "Carpe diem quam minimum credula postero" - seize the day with minimum trust in the future.

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 February 2015**. Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 25th January 2015**. If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on: chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com or by phone on

819471

Sheila Bulloch

Thank You from the Manse Family

We would like to thank you for all your prayers, good wishes and gifts for Hannah's birth.

We are quite overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. She is doing very well and having been on the small side she is now putting on weight and feeding around the clock.

We are feeling so blessed and happy.

Kristina & Matthew

Christians may not know what the future holds but we do know that it is in God's hands and those are hands of love. A love so great that it came down to us at Christmas, that it gave us a baby as a sign that it would be with us, that it never ends, overcoming sin and guilt and reaching beyond death itself. No one knows us and loves us as God does and we are called to respond with love of our own. There is no lover like God so seize his hand and make the most of today, Christmas and the coming year. As King George VI quoted in his Christmas Broadcast in 1939 after the outbreak of the World War II "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." A more positive view than Horace!

Liz joins me in thanking you for making us feel so welcome and allowing us to share in your Church family and wishing you joy and peace for Christmas and 2015.

John Cairns

MINISTER – On Maternity Leave

Rev. Kristina Herbold Ross,
Braemar Villa, 2 Links Road, Port Seton
819254

minister@chalmerschurch.co.uk

Interim Moderator

Rev David D Scott - revdd.scott@gmail.com

Locum Minister

Very Rev Dr John Cairns - johncairns@mail.com

Scripture Union Bible Reading Notes

If you would like bible reading notes to use over the year, please speak to Amanda Johnston who can order them on a quarterly basis.



Christmas Services

Sunday 21st December (4th in ADVENT)

11.00 a.m. Family Service with Christmas Music by the choir

Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

6.00 – 7.00p.m. Family Carol Service

11.30 p.m. Watchnight Service



Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day)

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Operation Christmas Child

Have you ever thought about what happens to the shoeboxes after you bring them to Church?

The pictures here tell a small part of the story. On the 17th November 2014, 90 boxes arrived onto Luke Street, which is our Kids Kirk theme this year. The children all wrote prayers, which were placed into a shoebox, sending love to children who have nothing.

On Saturday 6th December a team from East Lothian packed up the very large lorry with boxes from East Lothian, Edinburgh & the Borders.

In total we packed **1,047 cartons**, containing **9,973 gift filled shoeboxes**.

Hard work, but very rewarding!

We would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who made a shoebox or donated money.



Christmas Holiday Club

As we go to press, the Christmas Holiday Club for Children on Cockenzie and Port Seton is well underway to take place on **Saturday 13th December**.

The children will be acting out the Christmas story as they learn the true meaning.

The next holiday club will take place at Easter 2015.

Congregational Christmas Family Lunch



This will be served after the Family Service on Sunday 21st December, in the hall.



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



Boxes arrive on Luke Street



A few cartons in.....then the last one!



Some happy faces that will receive the boxes!

Volunteers Needed

The John Bellany Day Centre are looking for volunteers to join the management committee or to help within the centre. For further information please contact Christine Thomson – 811137 or Christine.thomson1@btinternet.com

News from the Stewardship Planning Group

Contrary to what many might think, Christian Stewardship is not just about money; it's also about how we make best use of our time and our talents in the service of our Lord. This group has been meeting since August and, in due course, has an ambition to address all these aspects of Christian Stewardship. However we have a big challenge before us, which means as a priority we do need to address finance.

The Kirk Session, through the Fabric Committee, has identified a number of issues relating to our various Church properties, the Church, the Hall and the Manse, which need to be addressed over the next three or four years, with some immediate work to be done in the Manse. It is estimated that work needed in all our buildings would cost in the region of £70,000.

We are therefore proposing a fund raising campaign over the next four years to raise this sum. This is quite a challenge, but that sum can be reduced by grants and loans from various bodies, and these we are following up diligently, so as to reduce how much we will have to raise through fundraising activities.

All of this is about ensuring our buildings are fit for purpose; that purpose being a stronger church that can be less concerned about the condition of our physical fabric and more about strengthening our congregation, developing our church family, young and old, and helping future generations worship together in God's love.

We will keep you updated regularly on progress; in the meantime perhaps you can begin to think about ideas for fundraising. But above all, remember Stewardship in your prayers, as all of this activity is in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and to His Glory.

George Smith
Convener, Stewardship Planning Group



PRAYERS

**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.
Isaiah 9 v 6**

In Our Waiting – by Katrina Crosby

God, we come to you in our waiting.

We wait with our fears:

Our anxieties and frustrations,

Our pains and regrets,

Our shame and confusion.

God, help us to wait in peace.

We wait with impatience:

We rush around,

preparing for the festivities,

Not leaving the space to prepare our hearts.

God, help us to wait in faith.

We wait in excitement:

We are ready to celebrate!

We know the story, with its humbleness,
simplicity, and wonder.

God, help us to nurture our joy.

We wait in thanksgiving:

We are free and able to celebrate.

We have others around us to share in the journey,

We are able to wonder in the marvel of your gift

God, help us to receive your love

Amen

Thanks

Dorothy Tervit would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for the beautiful flowers delivered in October following her fall at home when she hurt her back. The flowers cheered me up enormously! I have definitely learned my lesson and will never again stand on a chair to reach anything high up in the kitchen or anywhere else!! (*Editor Apology – missed in last newsletter*)

Margaret Harkness would like to say thank you for the flowers she received - they cheered her up.

Funeral

On 6th November

Arthur Duncan, Port Seton

Baptism

On 16th November

James Hunter Combe

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

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)



OUR WORSHIP

Very Rev Dr John Cairns will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 14th December (3rd in Advent)

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Tom GORDON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 21st December (4th in Advent)

- 11.00 a.m. Family Service with Christmas Music by the choir. Followed by Congregational Lunch
(Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE)



Sunday 28th December

- 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

(Please note NO 10.15am or 6.15pm SERVICE)

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)
4 – 6pm YKirk (2nd Friday of month) (Sept – June)

Saturday

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

Service in 2015

Sunday 4th January (Epiphany)

- 11.15 a.m. Joint Church Service with Cockenzie Old Parish and
Cockenzie Methodist Church in **THE OLD KIRK**
– Rev Russell MCLARTY

(Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE at Chalmers)

Sunday 11th January

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Anne SUTHERLAND
11.00 a.m. Souper Sunday Service followed by lunch

Sunday 18th January

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Tom GORDON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 25th January

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Ian BULLOCH
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament of
HOLY COMMUNION
6.15pm Evening Worship

Sunday 1st February

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – George SMITH
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 8th February

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

MINISTER- On Leave

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

Miss Jean Johnston
Tel: 810520

BEADLE

Vacancy
Tel:

PRAYER SECRETARY

Mrs Patricia Knox
Tel: 815423



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