



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Christmas 2015



Every time I think of you—and I think of you often!—I thank God for your lives of free and open access to God, given by Jesus.

There's no end to what has happened in you—it's beyond speech, beyond knowledge.

The evidence of Christ has been clearly verified in your lives. 1 Corinthians 1: 4-5

Dear friends at Chalmers,

I am writing this in my first days of returning from Maternity Leave.

This year at home with our baby daughter was the most wonderful of my life and none of the scare stories about giving birth or how life with a baby would be came true.

Yes, it changed our lives completely, in a sense, but also not at all.

Our lives - and love - are the same, but better, more purposeful.

I had a sense that this is the most important thing I would ever do. As a woman and a person, but especially as a Christian, because what more important ministry could there possibly be than looking after a helpless person, giving all your love to somebody else and bringing her up in a spirit of love, respect and care for others.

So I have learnt that there is one ministry in the Church that we usually overlook when we talk about ministries and gifts of the Spirit and this is the "ministry of motherhood" - or perhaps better the "ministry of parenthood".

Having this year of focusing solely on wee Hannah and our family - and also going over to Germany a few times to see my own mother - was a great gift and privilege which I will treasure forever.

But now Hannah and I have moved on to the next stage. Hannah is doing her own things for part of the

day and week and I am back to Minister God's love to other people as well. And that is good.

It is very good to be back. I have met some of you already and looking forward to do more catching up.

I am very impressed with how well the work has been flourishing at Chalmers Church during the past year. I would like to thank David Scott and John Cairns for their ministry and everybody in our congregation for all their work. I shall be interested to hear about all the different projects and initiatives that have come to life during my absence. I am also looking forward to working with Mary Gordon as Session Clerk and everyone else who have taken on new responsibilities. In all the joy of returning I am also very sad that some very dear people are missing and I am praying for those whom they left behind. So much can change in a year, in the glimpse of a second. May we realise how precious life is and that we have to treasure every moment we have.

As we go into Advent and then Christmas we will experience the loneliness of absence, the joy of anticipation and the birth of the new.

"May God bless you and keep you, may he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may he make his countenance shine upon you and give you peace" - in the coming weeks and always.

Kristina

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on **Sunday 7th February 2016**. Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 24th January 2016**. If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on:

chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com or by phone on 819471

MINISTER

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

minister@chalmerschurch.co.uk

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

Funerals

On 30th October

Jane Innes, Port Seton

On 16th November

William Scott, Port Seton



Find us on
Facebook

Please Like our Church Facebook Page. search for chalmers church.

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

Christian Aid

A meeting was held on 15th July 2015 to discuss the setting up of a small committee to co-ordinate and identify ideas for fund raising in the town during Christian Aid Week and possibly at other times.

It was decided that each congregation would be approached to nominate two representatives to serve on the Christian Aid committee to help Mrs Willins, Christian Aid Co-ordinator, Chalmers Memorial co-ordinate the fund raising.

Each church agreed to support this venture and following approval of each congregations Kirk Session a small committee has now been set up.

A meeting of the committee will take place on Wednesday 25th November 2015.

Eleanor Willins
Christian Aid Co-ordinator

Christmas Services

Sunday 20th December

(4th in ADVENT)



11.00 a.m. Family Service with Christmas Music by the choir
Followed by CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

6.00 – 7.00p.m. Family Carol Service

11.30 p.m. Watchnight Service

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day)

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

The next Candle Coffee Club meeting is on
Thursday 10th December

Meeting at 10.30a.m - Longniddry Inn.

This will be a Christmas Special with Musical
Group. Followed by lunch

All most welcome



Kids
Kirk



Youth
Kirk



Children and Youth News

Activities continue for all children and young people in our community. **Kids Kirk** meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month 10am – 12noon for children in P1 – P7. **Youth Kirk** follows on the Sunday at 7pm – 8.30pm for young people in P7 – S3. Both are working well with a great group attending regularly. Contacts are Sheila for **Kids Kirk** - kidskirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or 07980 059 974 and Gillian for **Youth Kirk** - ykirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or 07736 073 960.



Kids Kirk Sunday is celebrated at the 10.15am service. After our (November session) the children continued the theme and made lion masks - Grrrrr! At this service, they also brought along shoeboxes, these are heading off to Belarus on 5th December. As we go to print, so far we have collected 74 boxes, to add to the 4,300 boxes that have been collected from the Edinburgh and Lothians area.



There is a Joint Christmas Activity Day on **Saturday 12th December 10am – 3pm** in Chalmers Church Hall. This is open for all children in P1 – P7. There is a small charge of £3.50 per child (includes lunch) (More details from Sheila (contact details above))

Session Section

When I was slightly changing the format of one section of the Kirk Session Minutes to fit my own logic, it occurred to me that I sometimes spend more time putting things in the correct format rather than taking in the implications of what the words say; making sure the list of 'Actions' is in the right order, rather than getting on with the work!

While order may be important, thus saving time in the long run, it is the substance of the discussions which are the main thing. Our regular discussions are on:

- Supporting, and any changes to, the membership of the church
- the practical running of the church, bills to pay and fabric to be mended
- Stewardship, which encourages the good use of our talents and resources to fit our needs
- the spiritual help given from worship in the church, prayer and bible study
- how we share in Christian witness with the other denominations in our community
- how we support the community groups who use our buildings and most importantly,
- working out how to follow up on the things that need decided, need planned, and need to be done.

Our final item at the beginning of November looked forward to the return of our minister, where Rev Scott, Interim Moderator, encouraged us to remember the promises taken by all of us at her Induction Service, to work together and support each other in the work we do for Christ in His church.

We have continued His work in Kristina's absence, and, as we have proved ourselves able, it is possible there may be slight changes in expectations of all our roles and responsibilities as she joins us again.

Whatever else might change, I hope we shall all continue to fulfil our promise to work together in this new chapter of Chalmers Church.

Mary Gordon, Session Clerk



PRAYERS

**Glory to God in the highest
heaven, and on earth peace to
those on whom his favour rests.**

Luke 2:14

We light a candle for peace, Lord.
May its light scatter the darkness,
May its flame be a symbol of hope,
May its burning be a sign of faith
Joining with many other lights
for peace
We light this candle for peace.
May our lives be an expression of
peace-making.
May we seek to be lights in a dark
world,
Pointing to you, Jesus, the Prince
of Peace.
And following you in the way of
peace,
Let the candle burn, as a sign of
peace,
Offered to you.

John Johansen-Berg

Thanks

Maggie Ross would like to thank everyone for the flowers and cards she received following her fall. Thanks also to the folk who popped in to see her, the visits were much appreciated.

Thanks are expressed to all the walkers and sponsors who raised £700 towards the Stewardship Campaign.

Barrie & Agnes Johnston would like to thank everyone for the cards and flowers received following their recent illnesses.

Evelyn McCabe would like to thank the church for the lovely flowers she received following the sad death of her sister-in-law. They were much appreciated.

Bettine Robertson would like to thank the church for the flowers received following the death of her sister Gertrude. Kind deeds and words do much to lighten the burden of grief at this sad time.

Mary Clements and family wish to thank all those who attended the service of Thanksgiving in memory of her dear friend Jane. Thanks also too to everyone who sent cards, flowers and messages of sympathy. All these have meant so much to them at this difficult time. Thanks also go the members of Chalmers Church who served a tasty lunch following the service.

Dalkeith & Monktonhall Brass Band

Christmas Concert

Chalmers Church
Port Seton

Friday 11th December
7:30pm

Tickets: £6.00

Available on the door, or for
advance purchase through
Chalmers Church

Refreshments provided



Chalmers Christmas Card Delivery Service

The post box for Christmas cards will be in the Church vestibule after all services and will be collected from the box on **29th Nov, 6th & 13th Dec.**

We need more helpers to deliver cards, if you can help, please speak to Amanda Johnston or Lyn Marshall.

Each card costs 30p for deliveries within **Cockenzie and Port Seton ONLY**. Please ensure you **DON'T add all your posting!!**

The Rotary Club of Longniddry and District Presents:
A Christmas Evening of music with Newtongrange Silver Band – Monday 7th December – Port Seton Community Centre – 7.30pm. Tickets £6 – all proceeds to local charities. Tickets available from David Weaver - 814205



Nine Lessons and Carols, Gullane Kirk Sunday 20th December at 6.30 pm – More details from Bob Glover.

Services and Meetings

Sunday

10:15 a.m. All-age Family Worship (in Hall)
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship (with Crèche)
6.15p.m. Evening Worship (as advertised)
7-8.30 p.m. Youth Kirk (3rd Sun of month)
(Sept – June)

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

10.30-11.30a.m. Chalmers Crafters (1st of month)
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)



Rev Kristina Herbold Ross will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 6th December (2nd in Advent)

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

Sunday 13th December (3rd in Advent)

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

Sunday 20th December (4th in Advent)

11.00 a.m. Family Service with Christmas Music by the choir. Followed by CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH (Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE)



Sunday 27th December

11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Please note NO 10.15am 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 National 4 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)

OUR WORSHIP

Service in 2016

Sunday 3rd January (Epiphany)

11.15 a.m. Joint Church Service with Cockenzie Old Parish and Cockenzie Methodist Church in **Chalmers Memorial** (Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE)

Sunday 10th January

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

Sunday 17th January

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship Sailing the High C's
– Amanda JOHNSTON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 24th January

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

Sunday 31st January

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Joyce BUCHANAN
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
6.15p.m. Evening Service with COMMUNION

MINISTER

Rev. Kristina Herbold Ross
Tel: 01875 819254

TREASURER

Mrs Janet Farquhar
Tel: 811863

FLOWER CONVENER

Mrs Lyn Marshall
Tel: 814265

SESSION CLERK

Mrs Mary Gordon
Tel: 812262

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

SC004630 Cockenzie and Port Seton: Chalmers Memorial Parish Church (Church of Scotland) 'Scottish Charity'. www.chalmerschurch.co.uk