



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Christmas 2016



**Come, let's sing for joy to the Lord. Let's shout praises to the Rock who saves us.
Let's come to him with thanksgiving. Let's sing songs to him. Psalm 95:1-2**

Dear Friends

I have on my bookcase a book by Gerard Hughes titled "God of Surprises" which I read a number of years ago. The title of this book certainly rang true to me earlier this year when I was invited to be your Locum Minister.

As we approach the Christmas season I feel a bit like Mary and Joseph or Zechariah and Elizabeth (and many other people in the bible) must have felt when God surprised them with special plans for their lives. The opportunity to come to Chalmers Memorial certainly surprised me, and Jacqui too! I wasn't expecting it and it came out of the blue. But isn't that how God often works? God surprises us with opportunities in life to serve him in places and ways we never thought of. Sometimes, like me, you ask "how did that happen?" But once you spend time praying about it you realise it was God surprising you.

Both Jacqui and I are so happy with what we have experienced this far. You are truly very warm, genuine people and we both felt that from the very first time we came in to Chalmers. We also love the fact that you are so mission orientated and involved in reaching out and being Jesus' helping hands to one another and to those in the community and beyond. You really are an amazing church and it is a privilege for Jacqui and me to be part of it with you for now.

So when we unwrap those Christmas gifts under the tree this year and receive pleasant and unexpected surprises just know that that is how God often works in our lives - giving us unexpected gifts and surprises. He is indeed a good and loving God and we look forward and strive to follow His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. One thing we can be sure of is that there are many surprises yet to come as we open our hearts and minds to what God would have us be and do.

Blessings and a Happy Christmas

With love

Mike and Jacqui

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on **Sunday 5th February 2017**. Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 22nd January 2017**. If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on: chalmerschurch@bopenworld.com or by phone on 819471
Sheila Bulloch

Interim Moderator

Rev Neil Dougall
Home telephone 01620 892132
ndougall@churchofscotland.org.uk

Locum Minister

Rev Mike Watson
Home telephone 01875 320043
Mobile 07702 229886
MWatson@churchofscotland.org.uk

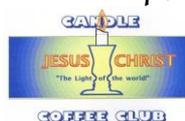
The next Candle Coffee Club meeting is on **Thursday 15th December** at 10.30a.m.

In Longniddry Inn. Followed by lunch.

The speakers at this meeting will be

Tom & Mary Gordon

All most welcome



Congregational Christmas Family Lunch

This will be served after the Family Service on Sunday 18th December, in the hall.



Please come along and join us for a bowl of soup and some mince pies!

Donations at the door

Funerals

On 26th October 2016

Archie Laidlaw, Ballencrief, Longniddry



Kids Kirk and **Youth Kirk** continue to blossom with a good group of children and young people enjoying working and learning together. In **Kids Kirk** we have travelled from Jerusalem to Damascus and in November into Lystra. The children have learnt about Saul, now known as Paul and all his friends. In **Youth Kirk** the young people have enjoyed developing new friendships and having a space to think and chat with the leaders.



On **Saturday 10th December** there will be a Christmas Activity Day for children P1 – P7. This will run 10am – 3.30pm, parents, families and friends are welcome to join us from 2.30pm. The children will journey with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and wise men to bring the Christmas story alive. Book space with Sheila.

On the **Sunday 11th December** there will be a Pizza and Movie night for the **Youth Kirk** young people. This will start at 6pm.

If you know a child in P1-P7 who would like to attend **Kids Kirk** on the 3rd Saturday of the month, or a young person P7-S3 who would like to come to **Youth Kirk** which meets on the Sunday following **Kids Kirk** please let us know. **Kids Kirk** runs 10am – 12noon, **Youth Kirk** runs 6-7.30pm.



God Bless, *Sheila Bulloch & Amanda Johnston*

Kids Kirk and **Youth Kirk** contact details are KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or text on 07980 059 974.

Session Section

I write with an update of Kirk Session business, aware of the questions which are around regarding our vacancy and how we are getting on. You will remember that, in August, movement on the vacancy was put on hold, pending resolution of a problem which had come to light regarding our Ministries and Mission contributions for last year. We were subsequently directed to have our Accounts for 2015 prepared again.

I am pleased to say that it is likely we will have these finalised for approval by the Kirk Session at our next meeting in December. Once these have been submitted to, and accepted by, the Presbytery and the church offices at 121 George Street, we shall be able to move forward and gather together our Nominating Committee to begin our search for a new minister. We expect this to be sometime early in the New Year.

The Session's work in all other areas has continued as usual, and I express my thanks to all for their hard work to keep the church in good shape moving forward.

I am sure you will wish to join the Session in registering our most grateful thanks to Rev Mike Watson for his Locum ministry with us at this time – especially for his lively and thoughtful messages to us and his caring pastoral work.

And members of the Kirk Session join with you, in thanking each other for the various tasks of care and support we share as we all try to show God's message of love in our daily lives.

God bless you as we go through a new Advent Season, look to the joy which comes again this Christmas and anticipate new beginnings for Chalmers Church in 2017.

Mary Gordon, Session Clerk

Thanks

Margaret Harkess would like to thank the Church most sincerely for the flowers she received for her Birthday.

Drena Hardie would like to thank everyone for the flowers received following the death of her brother, they were very comforting.

Margaret and Robert Purves would like to say a thousand thanks for the Church flowers. Robert's health is still giving cause for concern, but is very grateful for all the Church family prayers.

Duncan Morgan would like to thank everybody for their help for the Silent Auction and to those who served teas.

Toni Stewart would like to thank the church for the flowers received, these cheered her up!

Indoor Curling

First Wednesday of the month
1.30 – 3.30pm in the church hall

All welcome – younger, older,
men, women, fit, not so fit.





Christmas Services

Sunday 18th December (4th in ADVENT)

11.00 a.m. Family Service – 9 Lessons and Carols

Followed by CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

6.00 – 7.00p.m. Christingle Family Service

11.30 p.m. Watchnight Service

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day)

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Fundraising

The Stewardship Committee is concentrating its efforts on fundraising. Since the last Newsletter we have had a number of events, which have boosted our funds.

The **Late Summer Fair** on the **3rd September** exceeded expectations. Great fun was had by all and we raised **£865**. Many thanks to those who organised and manned stalls, provided refreshments, those who made sure everything went smoothly and all the folk who came along to pick up a bargain or two.

On **7th October** Singer **Anna Filogonio** entertained us once again. The net result was **£212** raised.

On the **5th November** we held a **Silent Auction**; this was the first time we have done this, so we went through a bit of a learning curve. There was a selection of good quality items for sale including paintings, tapestries, jewellery, glassware and ornaments. There were a number of items left, which were made available for people to purchase on the following Sunday after worship. All in we managed to raise **£833**. Thanks are due to Duncan & Helen Morgan, Tom & Dorothy Tervit and many others who helped on the day – not forgetting those who looked after refreshments.

By my calculations we have raised over **£6,000** this year to date. This includes a very generous donation of **£1,000**, which has enabled us to re-carpet the counting room and visitor's room behind the stage, replace flooring in the adjacent toilets and the adjoining corridor. When this work was planned we also decided to replace the sanitary ware in both toilets.

Events in 2017 - John Bellany is organising a **Sponsored Walk** at a date to be arranged, while early in the spring next year we are planning another concert by the **Dalkeith and Monkton Hall Brass Band**, and an event to be organised by **Ross Hamilton**.

Keep up to date with what's going on by keeping an eye on the Fundraising Notice Board in the Church Hall

*George Smith,
Stewardship Convenor*



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 **11th and 18th December ONLY**.



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**.

Lessons and Carols at Aberlady Church

Joint Churches Choirs
Organist: Bob Glover

Sunday 18th December at 6.30 pm

All are invited to join in singing the familiar carols in this beautiful setting.



Lessons & Carols
for Christmas

The Rotary Club of Longniddry and District Presents:

A Christmas Concert with
Newtongrange Silver Band –
Monday 5th December – Port
Seton Community Centre –

7.30pm. Tickets £6 – all proceeds
to local charities. Tickets
available from
David Weaver - 814205



Happy 2017

11.00am Family Service in Chalmers
on 1st January

'Come and celebrate the New Year'

Joint Church Service Sunday 8th January

11.00am in Cockenzie Old Parish Church

All Welcome

PRAYER

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

Luke 2:14



In the name of Jesus Christ, who was never in a hurry, we pray, O God that you will slow us down, for we know that we live too fast. With all of eternity before us, make us take time to live - time to get acquainted with you, time to enjoy your blessings, and time to know each other. Amen

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)
6-7.30pm Youth Kirk (3rd Sunday of month) (Sept – June)

Monday

7:15 p.m. The Guild (Oct - March)

Tuesday

10.00 a.m. Chalmers Ramblers Walking Group
7.30 p.m. Prayer Meeting

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)



OUR WORSHIP

Rev Mike Watson will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 27th November (1st in Advent)

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Mary Gordon
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
6.15 p.m. Evening Worship – Rev Tom Gordon

Sunday 4th December (2nd in Advent)

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

Sunday 11th December (3rd in Advent)

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

Sunday 18th December (4th in Advent)

11.00 a.m. Family Service – 9 Lessons and Carols including Christmas Music by the choir. Followed by CHRISTMAS LUNCH (Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE)



MINISTER –

In Transition
Tel: 01875 819254

TREASURER

Mr Ian Bulloch
Tel: 852717

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

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)

Saturday

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

Service in 2017

Sunday 1st January 2017

11.00 a.m. New Year Family Service
(Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE)

Sunday 8th January

11a.m. Joint Church Service with Cockenzie Old Parish and
Cockenzie Methodist Church in **Cockenzie Old Parish Church**
(Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE)

Sunday 15th January

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev Mike Watson
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 22nd January

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship
– Take Away Treats – Amanda Johnston
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 29th January

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Ian Bulloch
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament of **HOLY COMMUNION**
6.15 p.m. Evening Worship – Rev Tom Gordon



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