



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Christmas 2011



From the Minister:

Dear All,

I am writing my Christmas letter to you on the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday. I can't quite believe that we are starting to think about Christmas already and like many people I am slightly put out by all these Christmas lights and decoration which have been up for many weeks already.

But now, on Remembrance Sunday, it seems to be just about the right time to think about Christmas. With the disturbing news about Afghanistan and so many other places where there is war and trouble, when we hear about violence in our own country, and with all the human loss and suffering from the world wars, there is a real longing for peace on earth and good news for all mankind.

When I was a teenager and took part in peace demonstrations, there was this saying 'imagine there is war and nobody goes'.

Yes, when you are sixteen year old you still believe that it could be so simple, but then you learn that our world is far more complex, and that it just isn't that easy. – But I still sometimes think, wouldn't it be great if suddenly we would all be nice to each other, not take more than we need, not having to fear that others will take advantage of us. The wolf will lie with the lamb; the leopard will lie down with the goat.

And this longing for peace seems to be common to all mankind. There is hardly anybody who doesn't want peace and a secure life for himself and his people – this longing is universal.

But even so, there are never more relationships breaking up than during the holidays, people feel their loneliness particularly at this time of the year, domestic violence reaches a peak and poor people often miss out on the presents. Many people are glad when it will all be over, although they had been looking forward to it so much.

We work so hard for Christmas but we simply can't make it. Peace on earth – that is something for God to bring to us.

When I read the names on the War Memorial this morning, I realized that these are all familiar names. That was sad and humbling and I thought about how these men might have been related to the people whose minister I am today.

I have never felt so deeply happy that you elected me to be your minister, not only because I am enjoying much being your minister but because it is the most wonderful Christmas sign, for it shows that peace on earth is really possible – just as HE promised us.

So let us all pray that with God's help there will be peace on earth and good news great joy for all the people.

Matthew joins me in wishing you a good Advent, a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year,

Yours,

Kristina Herbold Ross

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter.

The next issue will be available on

Sunday 22nd January 2012

Articles for this edition should be with me by

Sunday 8th January 2012

If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on: **chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com**

Or by phone on 819471

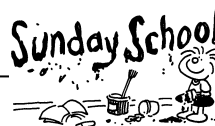
Sheila Bulloch

MINISTER

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



Sunday School News

On 16th October

Baptism
Cash James M^cLEAY, Port Seton

On 8th October

Funeral
Margaret MURRAY, 78 years old,
Tranent, formerly Port Seton

On 17th November

Isabella JOHNSTON, 85 years old, Port Seton

This year we will have a change from the traditional Christmas party. The Sunday School staff will arrange an outing for the children in the New Year. More information will be given out very soon!!



Christmas Thoughts and Prayers

Gracious Heavenly Father as we approach the Advent Season and reflect on the coming of Jesus into the world, we lift up our hearts in thanksgiving and praise for the wonderful gift you gave us in Jesus. Forgive us for all we are ashamed of in our past, and for all the ways we have hurt or betrayed you and above all forgive us that we have not always put you in the centre of every part of our lives. Help us during this busy Christmas season to remember the reason for the season and truly to worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..... And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"
Isaiah 9 v 6*

Prayer for Lonely

At this time of year when we look forward with joy to being with family and friends let us not forget those in our community spending their first Christmas alone; folks who are worried about their health; those experiencing the break-up of relationships; young folks who find growing up difficult; old folks no longer able to live on their own and neighbours in our street who are going through difficult times. Bring them all to God asking that they may find comfort and peace through knowing God's presence with them.

Prayer for Church Leaders

Remember our Minister and Kirk Session and all church leaders seeking to spread the gospel and to serve others. Pray that during this extremely busy

season they will be able to find time to spend with their families and friends.

Prayer for Children

Pray for children known to us and in our community as they look forward to Christmas - may they see beyond parties, presents and the many activities to the real meaning of Christmas. Bring to God the children and families of service men and women serving in Afghanistan as they spend Christmas without their loved one.

Prayers for the World

On Christmas Day amidst our celebrating and rejoicing take time to remember those throughout the world who are undergoing terrible suffering - through poverty; war; injustices; persecution; natural disasters; lack of medical resources; human trafficking and many other tragedies.

Pray that God may bring peace to lands where there is war and especially remembering the Holy Land where on that night all these years ago the Angels sang "Peace on earth and Goodwill to men".

Prayer for ourselves

As we look forward to all the Christmas services let us pray that as we meet together we may truly and sincerely worship the King of King and Lord of Lords, experience the presence of Jesus and praise and thank God for the wonderful gift of our Saviour. Give thanks for the way God has led us in the past, for all that He means to us in the present and the wonderful hope He has given us for the future.

*May you have the gladness of Christmas
- which is Hope
The spirit of Christmas - which is Peace
The Heart of Christmas - which is Love*

Welcome Wednesday

There will be a Christmas Special in aid of Mary's Meals. On **WEDNESDAY 7th DECEMBER** 10am - 12noon & 2pm - 4pm. Tea, coffee, mince pies and shortbread included in £4 donation. There will also be a home baking stall. Donations appreciated, please speak to Sandra Donaldson for more information.



Lost Property

Have you lost a pair of gloves, a spectacle case, umbrella or something else?

Duncan Morgan has a supply of items he and Helen have found in the Church. They are all in the Tower Room if you want to check.

Christmas Services

Sunday 18th December (4th in ADVENT)

11.00 a.m. Family Service with Church Nativity

Followed by CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTMAS LUNCH



WITH AN OPEN EYE

Tom Gordon's new book is now available. He will have copies on sale after the services throughout Advent at a 'Chalmers' price of £10.

Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

6.00 – 7.00 p.m. Family Carol Service

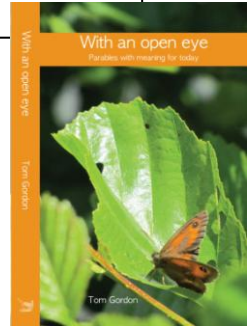
11.30 p.m. Watchnight Service

Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day)

11.00 a.m. Family Service

Thanks

The Johnston family would like to thank the congregation and ladies of the Guild, for their prayers, support, cards and flowers, after the sudden death of Isa.



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*

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 **4th & 11th December.**

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

Each card costs 20p for deliveries within **Cockenzie and Port Seton ONLY**. Please ensure you **DON'T** add all your posting!!

The next Candle Coffee Club meeting is on

Thursday 15th December

Meeting at 10a.m in
Longniddry Inn.



This will be a Christmas Special, followed by a Lunch.

All welcome

Welcome Wednesday

In the New Year there will be a few changes to the meetings. The **Family Prayer Time** will now be held on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month. **Lunches** will still be on the **3rd Wednesday** and **Coffee Time and Chat** will now be on the **last Wednesday** of the month.

We have lost a few of our 'helpers' recently for the Coffee and Chat Time so if anyone feels they could help serve teas and coffees then that would be much appreciated. Also we could do with more 'bakers' to donate for this as well. This would be about every 3 months (less if we get a few volunteers)

Please think about supporting these Church meetings by attending and enjoying fellowship with others.

Next meetings

Coffee Time and Chat - 7th December, then 25th January, 29th February.

Lunches - 21st December - Christmas lunch, NO JANUARY lunches, and then 15th February.

Family Prayer Time - 30th November, NO DECEMBER meeting, and then 11th January.

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

- 10a.m – 12noon Coffee Time (1st)
12-2p.m. Lunches (3rd)
10 - 11a.m. Prayer Time (last)
5:15 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

- 5:00 p.m. Rainbows}
6:30 p.m. Brownies } (Sept. - June)

Saturday

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

OUR WORSHIP

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

2012

Sunday 4th December (2nd in Advent)

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

Sunday 11th December (3rd in Advent)

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

Sunday 1st January – New Years Day

- (N.B. No 10.15 a.m. Service this Sunday)
11.00 a.m. Service for the **First Sunday of the Year.**

Sunday 8th January

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev Tom GORDON
11.00 am “Souper Sunday” Service
Followed by a Fund-Raising Lunch in the
Hall for HIV/AIDS Project

Sunday 15th January (Epiphany)

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev John KNOX
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 22nd January

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Nicola BRUCE
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 29th January

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Amanda JOHNSTON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship Traditional Worship
with Sacrament of **HOLY COMMUNION**
(with Crèche)
6.15 p.m. Evening Worship with Sacrament of
HOLY COMMUNION

Services for the Christmas Season –
See Details on Page 3
Retiring Offerings for
Christian Aid
at the Christmas Services



MINISTER

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TREASURER

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Mrs Aileen Parker
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SESSION CLERK

Mr John Murdoch
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HALL LETS

Mr Ian Bulloch
Tel: 852717

BEADLE

Mr Duncan Morgan
Tel: 812071

PRAYER SECRETARY

Mrs Alice Hood
Tel: 812191



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

SC004630 Cockenzie and Port Seton: Chalmers Memorial Parish Church 'Scottish Charity'.