



**Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter
Christmas 2010**



From the Locum Minister:

Research suggests that after 30 yrs of growing prosperity the people of Europe are feeling less happy and not more so. This is quite unexpected and it seems likely that in the future more attention will be paid to what gives us all a sense of well being.

Of course we can all chip in with reasons that might explain why British people are not as buoyant as they should be. Someone might feature the relentless pressure of modern life, jobs more demanding, less time to stop and stare. Another person might point out that divisions have widened between different sections of society and there is more distrust. Yet someone else might say that there is a relentless emphasis on spending power and the less well

paid or those unable to find work can feel that it is very unfair.

For all its glitz and party spirit the modern Christmas is not making people feel better about themselves. In Christian tradition it is a festival of light and love but somehow it has become a commercial jamboree that comes across as shallow. In the rush to "enjoy" Christmas it has for many people lost its spiritual meaning. In this country which owes so very much to its Christian heritage we find the title "winter festival" being substituted for Christmas and that is just sad. Christmas is life giving and precious. It spells out in a beautiful and uplifting way the dignity of every human life.

It is certainly true that we are part of a material world and there is no denying the fact that we all need a healthy material provision for our life and health and that is a profoundly Christian value but we are called to go further than that. We are called to build a world that combines earthly realism and spiritual truth and to weave these two aspects of our experience together. Christmas tells us how God came in love among us and can satisfy our souls.

I would invite everyone to share our services this Christmas. I pray that our Advent and Christmas services can be lights guiding us to the stable where the love of God was radiant in the face of the Christ child.

Graham Black

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

The next issue will be available on Sunday 23rd January 2011

Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 9th January**

If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on:

chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com

Or by phone on 819471

Sheila Bulloch



Flower Convenor

A very special thanks to Miss Mary Clements who has retired as flower convenor.

We thank her for the care and attention to the Church flowers and for her organisational skills with her team of helpers. She has been succeeded by Mrs Aileen Parker.

She can be contacted on 813307

INTERIM MODERATOR

Rev Christine M Clark
gcclark20@aol.com

LOCUM MINISTER

Rev Graham Black
01620 843899
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Sunday 19th December - Christmas presentation by the Sunday School at the **11.00am** service. Our annual **Christmas party** will be held on **Saturday 18th December**. Sunday school children will be given more information about this amazing event nearer the time! Santa has already been given his invitation!



Christmas Prayers

And the angel said to them "Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord!

Luke 2:10

Prayers for the World

Lord at this Christmas season we would bring before you the many areas of the world where there is great suffering through conflicts, floods, earthquakes and disease. Help us to be generous with our time, friendship, skills, money and possessions where possible to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters in such dire situations. We pray especially for the Churches in these lands that they may be upheld and encouraged in all they seek to do in Your Name.

Prayers for the Church

Lord we give thanks for the ministry and friendship of Mr Black and pray that throughout this Christmas season you will bless him in all he is called to do in your Name. We pray for all involved in various services and activities that in the midst of the busyness and excitement the true message of Christmas will be communicated well.

Father we would bring before you the Nominating Committee entrusted with the task of finding a new minister. Grant them wisdom and guidance in their work and we pray that it won't be too long before the minister of your choice will be found.

Prayers for the Lonely

Gracious Lord we pray for folks in our Church fellowship who are not looking forward to Christmas because of the loss of a loved one. Grant them comfort and provide for them in their need. We pray too for those known to us who live alone and those in care. Be near to those who are worried about their health and those with difficult family problems.

Children's Prayer

Heavenly Father we would bring to you all children who do not know the joy of a family; children who have lost a parent; children who have to be carers; children who live on the streets; children who have to work at an early age and children who have a terminable illness. Bless all who endeavour to bring joy into their lives at Christmas time.

Prayer of Thanks

Gracious Heavenly Father as we approach the Advent Season we thank you for all the love and compassion you had for each one of us, so much so that you sent your only Son into the world to be our Saviour. Forgive us Lord for all our shortcomings and help us truly to worship You in spirit and in truth. Help us to take time to meditate on what Jesus really means to us and rejoice in the salvation that you offer.

In Jesus name we pray - Amen

FUNERALS

11th October Peter Cunningham,
5 Castle Walk, Port Seton

15th October Margaret Currie Ross,
Florabank Nursing Home

22nd October Herbert Alexander Gourlay,
Fidra Nursing Home

3rd November Janet Scott Wilson,
East Fortune House

3rd November Florence Fisher Sutton,
12 Golf Drive, Port Seton

Welcome Wednesday

There will be a Christmas Special in aid of C.H.A.S. On WEDNESDAY 1st DECEMBER 10am – 12.30pm. Tea, coffee, mince pies and shortbread included in £3 donation. There will also be a home baking stall. Donations appreciated, please speak to Sandra Donaldson for more information.



Christmas Services

Sunday 19th December (4th in ADVENT)

11.00 a.m. Family Service

with presentation by the Sunday School.

Followed by CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTMAS LUNCH

6.15 p.m. Christmas Music and Meditation

with the Choir

Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

6.00 – 7.00 p.m. Family Carol Service

11.30 p.m. Watchnight Service

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day)

11.00 a.m. Short Family Service



Sunday 26th December

(N.B. No 10.15 a.m. Service this Sunday)

11.00 a.m. Service for the Last Sunday of the Year.

Congregational Christmas Family Lunch

*This will be served after the
Family Service on
Sunday 19th December in the hall.*



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

Christmas Stamps

Royal Mail is advertising 'Wallace and Gromit' Christmas stamps but not stamps with a Christmas theme.

The stamps with a Christian theme will be available to those who ask for them.

Welcoming each wonder
Tom Gordon's second book in his 'Lectionary Series' is now on sale at a special introductory price of £10.

Tom will have copies available after both services throughout Advent.



Thanks

Mrs Agnes Johnston would like to thank everyone who have made enquiries recently following her stay in hospital. Thanks also for the cards and flowers received.

Ella Cunningham, Bob, Sue and Family thank all for the support and love shown at our loss of Peter. Special thanks and appreciation for the attendance at both the Church and Seafield services and thanks also to Rev. Graham Black for his moving tribute, and for his help and care at this sad time. Thanks to Pamela for her musical selection and of course to the Guild, for their Tea Service and Church flowers. This was much appreciated by all.

Nanna Naples would like to thank everyone for the cards and the flowers she received from the church after her stay in hospital. They were very much appreciated.

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 5th & 12th December.

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 16th December
Meeting at 10a.m in
Longniddry Inn.
This will be a Christmas Special,
followed by a Lunch.



All welcome

Order yours today

www.caringchristmastrees.com

or call 0845 111 8733 **Deadline 13th December**

All proceeds from Caring Christmas Trees in Edinburgh support
Bethany Christian Trust's Care Shelter

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

- 10.00 a.m. Chalmers Ramblers Walking Group
(every 2nd Tuesday)
7.30 p.m. Prayer Meeting for the Vacancy



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 Graham Black our Locum Minister will be preaching at the
11am services unless otherwise indicated**

Sunday 5th December (2nd in Advent)

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

Sunday 12th December (3rd in Advent)

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



Sunday 26th December

- 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
(N.B. No 10.15 a.m. Service this Sunday)

2011

Sunday 2nd January

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

Sunday 9th January

- (N.B. No 10.15 a.m. Service this Sunday)
11.00 am Presbytery of Lothian "Souper Sunday"
**in conjunction with The Church of Scotland's
HIV/AIDS Project Elders' Service**
Followed by a Fund-Raising Lunch in the Hall

Sunday 16th January

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

Sunday 23rd January

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship David COOPER
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 30th January

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

LOCUM MINISTER

Rev. Graham Black
Tel: 01620 843899

TREASURER

Mrs Janet Farquhar
Tel: 811863

FLOWER CONVENER

Mrs Aileen Parker
Tel: 813307

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

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'.