



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Early Summer 2010



From the Minister:

From the Old Things to the New

Sunday 28th March, Palm Sunday, was a significant day in the life of our congregation for two reasons.

First, members who attended the Annual Stated Meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the Unitary Constitution for the management of our congregational affairs. We had been advised that the largely unwritten United Free Church Constitution under which we have operated for most of our congregation's life is no longer acceptable when it comes to dealing with banks, charity law and the courts. Had we decided not to make this change we could have been storing up financial and legal problems for the future. That said; none of us felt happy letting go of over a century of history, in particular the Deacons' Court which has been a useful way of involving people as office-bearers who might be happy to give a few years of service as opposed to the lifetime commitment of the eldership. I was impressed with the way all the members present accepted we had to move with the times, that there was a need, in the words of the popular hymn we often sing, to travel "from the old things to the new." Secondly, that same Sunday, at the 10.15 Service in the Hall, I had the privilege of receiving on behalf of the congregation and dedicating the truly

beautiful 'fish' shaped worship table, crafted by one of our newest deacons, John Johnston, and a gift by the family of Nanette Johnston, a faithful member who died suddenly in December 2007 still remembered fondly by us all. The table, besides being a unique work of art in its own right, is also a most practical gift in that it can readily be wheeled through from the Hall to the Church Transept for use in small communion services and other services. Whilst the design is strikingly modern, the wood used is from pews removed from the transept several years ago to make way for the very practical and flexible space we have for wheel-chair users, for small meetings and services.

I immediately saw in the creation of the table a parable for our times. Although the wood has been beautifully finished, you can still see the knots and markings of the old pews. Is this not symbolic of what we in the church are about – seeking the transformation of old lives, knots and all, into God's "new creation"?

This will be the last magazine in which I will write as your minister. As you all know, from July onwards Elizabeth and I will be residents in the community, but we will all have to accept that our relationship has changed. We will have to be both sensitive and sensible in

making sure that the very deep friendships we have forged with you over the years do not present any problem, perceived or otherwise, for my successor. There are many in the wider church who think it is impossible for a minister to remain in the parish without making difficulties for both the congregation and their new minister. I hope that together we can work to prove the doubters wrong! We have too high a regard for Chalmers Memorial Church, for all that we have enjoyed and achieved together, to let anything we do get in the way of your continued journey. It is in a very real sense that we all must travel from the old to the new. Even if we don't know what lies ahead of us, we do know who goes with us.

Thank you, all, for all you have given me and for all we have shared together these past thirteen years. Just as I gave thanks daily to God from the day I came here, I shall always give thanks to God that our final ministry was at Chalmers Memorial.

BOB

MINISTER

Rev. Robert L Glover,
Braemar Villa, 2 Links Road, Port
Seton Tel: 812481.

E-mail: rlglover@btinternet.com

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

Until 27th June 2010

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

The next issue will be available on
Sunday 29th August

Articles for this edition should be with me by
Sunday 15th August

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

Or by phone on 819471
Sheila Bulloch



The next Candle Coffee Club meeting is on
THURSDAY 17th June
Meeting at 10a.m in
Longniddry Inn. This will be
followed by a Lunch
All welcome

Funerals

On 4th May

Donald SOWDEN,
The Anchorage

PASTORAL COVER from JULY onwards

Anyone requiring the services of a minister after Sunday 27th June should contact our Interim Moderator Rev Robert SIMPSON (01875 810308) until further notice.

Please do not contact Mr Glover after that date regarding pastoral matters as the necessary refusal will be upsetting on both sides. As most members will be aware, the Glovers will be moving to live at 27 Winton Park, Cockenzie. To allay any concerns, Bob has given a firm undertaking to Presbytery that he will play no ministerial role in the life and affairs of any of the churches in Cockenzie & Port Seton post retirement and that any possible departure from this self-imposed rule would require the clear indication that this would be the wish of his successor.

*It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.
Lamentations 3 v. 26.*

PRAYER DIARY

Sunday: We praise You, Lord for the assurance that You are here with us as we meet together Sunday by Sunday. Still our hearts that we may be open to your word and ready to listen. Give us grace to obey where it may be uncomfortable, courage to follow where the road seems hard and wisdom to realise that your ways are perfect. Amen

Monday: Give thanks to God for the selfless and devoted work done by Mr and Mrs Glover during their time here amongst us. Pray that God will greatly bless them and their family as they look forward to many happy years of retirement.

Tuesday: Pray earnestly for our Church as we enter into a vacancy. Pray for those who are chosen for the task of finding a new minister that in all they do they may seek God's guidance. Remember also other Churches in the Presbytery finding themselves in the same position.

Wednesday: Ask God to bless all our new MPs appointed recently, especial remembering our local M.P. Pray that

they may concern themselves with the genuine needs of their constituents and that God will give them wisdom and courage as they represent and serve their communities.

Thursday: As we enter the holiday season pray that we as a community and Church may be open and welcoming to the many visitors in our midst. Pray for all we know going on holiday that they may come back refreshed and renewed.

Friday: Remember all children in our community who at this time will be leaving school and feel uncertain about the future. Pray that the employment situation may get better so that opportunities will be open to them. Pray too for those looking forward to college and university that they will soon settle down and make new friends.

Saturday: Pray for Christians in Asian countries such as China, North Korea and Vietnam, where freedom of religion is severely limited and many Christians are suffering.

"O God, ruler of all, take from the world religious intolerance. Help us to remember that you have your own secret stairway into every heart." William Barclay.

Sunday School News.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way towards the Easter Breakfast. Their help was much appreciated and a total of £115.40 was raised and sent to the "Mercy Ships" charity.

The annual Sunday School prizegiving is on 20th June at the 11am service. We invite everyone to join us in the hall after the service for tea and cakes!

The Sunday School staff hope all the children and their families have a great holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back after the holidays on Sunday 22nd August.

Thanks

Thanks are expressed to all who donated to our Day of Commitment. We raised £3,144. Well Done.

Christian Aid House to House Collection - Special thank you to those who collected and thanks to everyone for their continuing support, we collected **£1,207**. We also raised **£1,074** from the Forth Bridge Cross. Thanks to all who walked or sponsored.

Mr Laidlaw would like to thank the church for the gift of flowers following his recent visit to hospital.

Catherine Penman would like to thank everyone their kind thoughts, prayers and cards following the death of her mother.

The Sunday School would like to thank Catherine Penman for her very kind gift towards Sunday School funds.

Mrs Alice Thomson would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, visits and gifts received on her 80th birthday.

Anne and Bert Hildersley would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their good wishes and congratulations on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, thanks to the Guild for the flowers. Thanks also to those who visited, phone or dropped off edible goodies since Anne's accident. We have been overwhelmed by all the kindness shown.

Goodbye to the Glover's

The Congregation would like to wish you both a very happy and restful retirement. We also wish you both much happiness in your new home. There is a 'farewell do' on Friday 25th June at 7.30pm in the Church hall. Tickets are available from Elders. All welcome.

From the Interim Moderator:

Dear Friends at Chalmers

As you all know, it is my privilege to serve as Interim Moderator during the imminent vacancy. It has, indeed, been my privilege to work with Bob Glover during the 13 years he has spent among us. He has been a valued colleague, confidant and friend. I am particularly glad to be covering the vacancy because I know in what a fine state he leaves the church. You have worked hard and well together to build a friendly and effective outpost of God's Kingdom.

At its June meeting, Presbytery gave permission for Chalmers Church to call a minister. It has (obviously) been a more complicated journey thus far than we all expected when Bob intimated his retirement back in January. There are a number of reasons for this, involving the particular situation in Cockenzie and Port Seton, the recent General Assembly and the national background. There are still a few formalities to complete, but the lights are turning green.

Where we are now is that Presbytery is in the process of drawing up a new Presbytery Plan. While this happens, there must be some flexibility in how ministers are deployed. During this period, all ministers will be called on '5-year Reviewable Conformable' tenure. What this means is that after 5 years Presbytery may reassess the need for a given ministry, or the form (e.g. part of a team, or part of a group of parishes) it will take; however if in the meantime the Plan decides that the ministry is in the right place and form, then the ministry may be 'conformed' to the Plan without the need for a review.

So Chalmers will be the first charge granted permission to call on that basis. Within the next few weeks I hope that we will be able to appoint a Nominating Committee who will begin, on behalf of all of you, the search for the right minister to join with Chalmers Church in the years ahead.

A vacancy is a challenging time. I don't know of a church better placed than Chalmers to thrive under the challenges that will face you. I know that God will stretch and strengthen us all if we carefully seek his will. I am looking forward to getting to know you better in the months ahead. I hope you will not take me wrongly if I say that I hope our acquaintance will be a short one!

With best wishes, Robert Simpson

It is safe to say that Bob leaves us in better fettle than when he arrived. It seems a lifetime since he became our Minister and it will take some getting used to him not being in the pulpit Sunday by Sunday.

Bob can frequently be seen speaking to anyone passing by and he is perhaps one of the best known faces in the village. Throughout his ministry here, he has taken an interest in the community, particularly with his involvement at the school, power station, harbour and John Bellany Centre with everyone appreciating his friendship and pastoral support.

Bob has fulfilled the role set out in the last Parish Profile throughout his 13 years with us. The style of worship has changed for the better – amongst other things we have changed hymn books twice and established an early morning family service. Office bearers have been trained to lead worship and frequently do. All in all it's been a team Ministry with everything set in place for a new Minister. Music plays a large part in Bob's life and through his efforts we have benefited from that as well.

Bob's has had a successful Ministry at Chalmers and I have greatly enjoyed working with him, as have all the other office bearers and the members of the Congregation. We are all sorry that he has decided to retire, but when you reach your 65th birthday you are entitled to want to take it easy.

Bob retires with all our best wishes and thanks for all his hard work during the past 13 years. We should not forget Elizabeth who has also worked tirelessly for the Congregation and we wish them well in the future. I am sure we will see them both around the village as they settle into their new home having migrated to Cockenzie.

When Bob came to us he wanted to be just a parish Minister – that role was certainly fulfilled. Bob and Elizabeth thanks for everything and all the best for the future.

John Murdoch

(Adapted from the tribute paid at Presbytery Meeting 3 June 2010)

Vacancy Update

At the meeting on 3rd June, Presbytery gave us the go ahead to call a Minister, as Robert Simpson has written above. As I explained in the Church on 6th June, the Presbytery Plan is being replaced. There is to be a reduction of Ministers and Lothian Presbytery are set to lose 6 full time Ministers over the coming years. Presbytery wish to keep their longer term options open and are unable, at present, to allow vacant or about to be vacant congregations to call a Minister on an 'Unrestricted' basis. They agreed we can call under the 'Conformable Reviewable Tenure'. We do owe a debt of gratitude to Robert Simpson who has worked tirelessly on our behalf. I will be updating the Electoral Roll soon, and will keep you posted on the progress via the intimations.

Presbytery ratified the decision taken at our AGM to change our Constitution to the Unitary Constitution. This will take place over the coming months when the Deacons' Court will be stood down.

Presbytery paid tribute to Bob, recognising all his years in the Ministry as he was dragged shouting and screaming from the building!!

John Murdoch, Session Clerk

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 Tuesday till September)
7.30 p.m. Bible Study



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

Sunday 20th June (NB No 10.15 Service)

- 11.00a.m. All-Age Family Service and Prizegiving
Nicola BRUCE with Rev Bob GLOVER

Sunday 27th June

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship. Rev Bob GLOVER
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship (ACTS 20)
with Sacrament of HOLY COMMUNION.
Rev Bob GLOVER

Sunday 4th July

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

Sunday 11th July

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

Sunday 18th July

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

Sunday 25th July

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Ian BULLOCH
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship –
Rev Robert SIMPSON

Sunday 1st August

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

(The preacher at the 11am service during August will be intimated each week via the on screen intimations)

Sunday 8th August

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

Sunday 15th August

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

Sunday 22nd August

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

Sunday 29th August

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Amanda JOHNSTON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship –
Rev Graham BLACK

From 29th August 2010 - Rev Graham Black will cover as our Locum Minister

MINISTER

Rev. Robert L Glover
Tel: 812481

TREASURER

Mrs Janet Farquhar
Tel: 811863

FLOWER CONVENER

Miss Mary Clements
Tel: 812241

SESSION CLERK

Mr John Murdoch
Tel: 812469

ACCESS to the HALL contact

Mr Tom Donaldson
Tel: 812023

ORGANIST

Mrs Pamela Zenati
Tel: 813641

CLERK TO DEACONS COURT

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'.