



## Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Easter 2012



From the Minister:

Dear All,

I hope this finds you well and that you are enjoying the first signs of Spring – the days are getting longer, there is more light and God’s rich creation around us shows signs of new life.

Likewise, in Chalmers Church things are happening and emerging; new things are springing forth and becoming visible. I am delighted that we now have a Fair Trade Stall after the Services on the third Sunday of the month. Patricia Knox and Elizabeth Glover have taken responsibility for this and it was a great success in February. As Christians we are called to social responsibility. One day our Lord will ask us how we treated our brothers and sisters and so we have to make sure that the goods we buy are produced ethically and traded fairly. We are also responsible for God’s creation and must treat our environment responsibly. I am proud that in Chalmers we are not using polystyrene cups anymore but have changed to mugs; I would particularly like to thank the Guild who took the lead in this.

I would also like to take the opportunity to share a few things with you which are happening “behind the scenes” in Chalmers at this time. As you know, at the AGM in March 2009 the congregation decided to change from the old Free Kirk constitution to the “Unitary Constitution”, which means that the Deacons Court was abolished and all its responsibilities transferred to the Kirk Session. The Session being responsible for the spiritual life of the congregation sets the parameters and the practical work is done in various committees and presented to the Session to decide on. It is basically the same structure that the Presbytery and the General Assembly have.

The advantage of this structure— once fully implemented and working – is that it will be more efficient and need fewer meetings. As the committees are open to all members of the

congregation it is a great way for people to get involved in shaping our congregation and will make the work of the Session more transparent.

One of the things which have been occupying the Session and myself since I started as your minister was setting up and implementing these committees. Due to the vacancy, this had not been done. A lot of time-consuming and detailed work was needed. I am pleased to report that all the new committees have now had their first meeting. Some have started their work and are running quite smoothly; others are struggling, which is partly due to the fact that nobody wants to convene them. As the saying goes, “put the cart before the horse”, i.e. we have set up six committees which are now finding their topics whilst other congregations find their vision first, then develop a strategy and then set up the committees they need to achieve this. However, there was no alternative for us than to getting on with fully implementing our new structure. And I must say that particularly those committees which have been struggling at bit with their purpose are proving to be great sources of new ideas.

However, the Session has decided to take the time to step back and think about God’s vision for our Church. What is it that God wants us to do here in this place today? The Session will take a whole day for a “Vision Meeting”. The Rev Douglas Nicol, former General Secretary of the Board of National Mission, has kindly agreed to be the facilitator and this gathering will take place on 12 May.

The new Pastoral Care Committee has set up a “Visiting Group” which is a support Group for all who do visiting. Visiting can mean going round to people’s homes or ‘phoning them, or nowadays (for some) even a chat on the internet. If you do Pastoral Care and/or visit people please feel welcome. In this group we will try to ensure that nobody who needs a visit

slips through the net; it will help District Elders with their Pastoral tasks. Elizabeth Glover has kindly offered to coordinate visitors and those who are visited and is now our “Visiting Coordinator”. But this will only work when you tell us (Elizabeth or myself) about people who need a visit.

As a congregation, we have to admit that we are struggling in the area of teaching and worship with children. It is important to explore new ways of reaching out, in Christ’s name, to children and young families. “Messy Church” is a concept that has worked well in many congregations; we are considering this too. Another project which is already taking shape is a joint Holiday Club with the Old Kirk and Cockenzie Methodist Church, facilitated by Scripture Union, here in Chalmers in the first week of July which will be the first week of the holidays. This time it will just be a one day “Taster Club”; we will see how this might develop for future holidays. Volunteers will be needed!

Finally, I have received my safety training in the Power Station and am now allowed to roam there on my own, which should not present too big a problem as last week I even made my way to the school’s staff room without taking the wrong turning for the first time!

With all good wishes for Spring and all the exciting times ahead. We must never forget that in all that is being done we are to glorify God and not our own ideas. God bless,

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

### **MINISTER**

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

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3. 16.

# PRAYER DIARY

**Thursday.** Pray for all members of our Church fellowship and neighbours who are experiencing health problems that God will give them healing and peace in their anxiety. Remember too those known to us who are in Care Homes. Pray for those who look after them that they may show them the love and care they need.

**Sunday:** At this Easter time we humbly bow before you, Lord Jesus Christ; for on the cross you took our place, bore the punishment for all our sin and fully satisfied the demands of divine justice through your suffering and death. How can we ever express our thanks and praise for this, the ultimate act of love? Help us Lord through the power of your Holy Spirit to rededicate our lives to you that in all we do we may truly worship and serve you. Amen.

**Friday:** As the schools come to the end of the second term pray for all young folk in our community who after the Easter holidays will be facing important exams which will determine their future. Pray that they will be able to focus their minds and not be too stressed out. Give thanks for the work done by Scripture Union in the schools in East Lothian.

**Monday:** As the Guild approaches the end of the session give thanks for the times of fellowship experienced together and for all who have come to tell of their faith, work and experiences.

**Saturday.** There are so many areas of the world that need our prayers - so many countries where people are suffering. Pray especially for the situation in Syria, that the leaders of the nations may be able to intervene and bring an end to the suffering of so many innocent people.

**Tuesday.** Have ever before you the Minister, Kirk Session and the new Committees grappling with the many challenges facing them as they reach out to the community these days in this fast changing world.

Heavenly Father help us to share in the lives of people in other countries, that we may learn from them and share their joys and their difficulties, so that in fellowship and trust we may reflect your care and concern, and be made more like you to your honour and glory. Amen.

**Wednesday:** Pray for all Christian MPs in Westminster and Holyrood. Ask God to grant them wisdom and courage to speak out on the many important moral and ethical issues which face Governments in these days.

The next Candle Coffee Club

meeting is on

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March



Meeting at 10a.m in 'Longniddry Inn'.

All welcome

## EDITOR'S NOTE

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

The next issue will be available on

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

Articles for this edition should be with me by

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on: [chalmerschurch@bopenworld.com](mailto:chalmerschurch@bopenworld.com)

Or by phone on 819471

Sheila Bulloch

## Thanks

Janet Hawthorn would like to thank the Church for the flowers she received on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Mary Johnston would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers and many cards received during her recent illness. All very uplifting and much appreciated.

The Visiting Group will meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Counting Room.

## Announcement for

Evening Service with Redemption Hymns:

Your choice counts – The red hymn book will be used at our April Evening Communion Service and you can nominate your favourite Redemption Hymns. We want to know which are the most popular. You are invited to put your hymn request in the Redemption Hymn Box in the transept.

## DAY OF COMMITMENT SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL

The Annual Business Meeting will be held on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March** in the Church after the 11.00am service when the Annual Accounts will be presented to the Congregation.

During the past year the largest part of our local expenditure has been spent on the manse and although a budget was set costs ended up greater than budgeted.

Money (or the lack of it) is always at the forefront of discussions within the Church and we are no exception. In the coming year we will be faced with increased costs paid to Presbytery as they implement the Presbytery Plan.

The Kirk Session has agreed that we should have a **Day of Commitment** this year which will take place on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April**. As in previous years Commitment cards will be delivered with the Communion cards around the middle of April.

Could I also remind Income Tax payers, if you have not signed up to the Gift Aid scheme please do so as it allows us to claim money back from HMRC at no extra cost to you. In 2011 we managed to claim approximately £11,000. As the basic tax rate has reduced, if our giving stays the same the amount recovered this year will be less.

John Murdoch

## Holy Week



Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

7.30 p.m. Holy Week Service led by members of the Guild to which ALL are invited.

Maundy Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April

7.30 pm United Communion Service in  
Cockenzie Methodist Church  
Rev Margaret STEIN

Good Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April

2-3.15 p.m. Quiet Time with Music and Prayer  
in Chalmers Church  
- Rev Kristina Herbold ROSS

Easter Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April

10.00 a.m. Easter Breakfast with the Sunday School  
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
- Rev Kristina Herbold ROSS

## FORTH BRIDGE CROSS

SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2012

CELEBRATORY 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

In 1972 Rev John Carrie started the Forth Bridge Cross as a fundraiser for Christian Aid in the fight against poverty. This became an annual event and 40 years later the bridge cross has raised well over £1 million for poverty eradication. The work this money has enabled Christian Aid to do is significant and they are extremely thankful to all of those people who have taken part in and supported the Forth Bridge Cross over the years.

From 1pm on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012 a birthday party will be held at the South Queensferry registration area to which everyone is invited. There will be birthday cake, entertainers for children, music and starting the walk will be Head of Christian Aid Scotland, Kathy Galloway.

The walk will commence as usual at 2pm and celebrations will continue at both sides of the bridge until everyone is finished. I do hope you will be able to join us.

SPONSOR FORMS are now available from Eleanor Willins on telephone number 812616.

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> MAY  
2012 - HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION  
LET'S GIVE THE TOOLS ... to help people in  
poverty out of poverty

Join thousands to collect this Christian Aid week. To volunteer to collect, please contact Eleanor Willins on telephone number 812616 or see me in the hall. Any help you are able to give is greatly appreciated.

You may remember we tried to use recyclable cups some time ago in order to be more environmentally responsible but they proved themselves not up to the job!

As we have plenty of mugs in our church cupboards, it's been decided to use these instead of the poly cups which go straight to land fill. So far, most people have commented that they prefer their drink from the china mugs but it does mean more washing up! We also have a dishwasher so if anyone wants to learn how to use it that can be arranged.

## 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

- 10 - 11a.m. Prayer Time (2<sup>nd</sup> of month)  
12-2p.m. Lunches (3<sup>rd</sup> of month)  
10a.m – 12noon Coffee Time (last of month)

### Wednesday – Evening Activities

- 5:15 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

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

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

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

### **Followed by AGM and light lunch in Church Hall**

- 6.15 p.m. Evening Service with COMMUNION

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April (Palm Sunday)**

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

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday**

- 10.00 a.m. Easter Breakfast with the Sunday School  
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
(Please note NO 10.15am service)

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

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

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

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

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April – DAY of COMMITMENT**

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Amanda JOHNSTON  
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament of  
HOLY COMMUNION  
6.15 p.m. Evening Service with COMMUNION  
with hymns from Redemption Hymnal

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

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

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

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

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

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

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May (Pentecost)**

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev John KNOX  
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
6.15pm Evening Service with COMMUNION

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

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

#### **MINISTER**

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#### **TREASURER**

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

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