



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Easter 2014



Dear All,

‘You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.’ (John 16: 20)

With this bible verse for the month of April Matthew and I wish you a happy Springtime and blessed Eastertide when it comes. As I am writing this, Matthew is having the last days in his current parish before he will start as General Secretary of ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland) on 1st April. These are exciting times for us. At Chalmers Church there are also exciting things happening.

We are taking next steps to set up a bereavement support group and I would like to draw your attention to an article in this newsletter by the Rev Tom Gordon.

Kids’ Kirk is growing up and YKirk (short for “Youth Kirk” but also implying the question “Why Kirk?”) for P7-S2s will run for the first time on 5th September, 4-6pm. Watch out for more information nearer at the time.

Our annual Redemption Hymn Communion service will be held at 6.15pm on Sunday 27th April with Matthew taking the service and the Rev Robert Glover playing the organ.

The faith course “Back to Basic” is going well. Attendance is very good with around thirty people on the

Tuesday evening and it is an interesting experience. We do however find that the material opens up more questions than it answers. So we have decided to run a follow up bible study series “Answering the Questions” in due course. There will be more information nearer the time.

I would also like to draw your attention to a letter from the Session Clerk in this newsletter.

Jesus says to his disciples when tells them that he will have to leave them “You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy”. This is HIS promise to us too. There will be Easter with all its joy in the resurrection and the assurance that HE will be always with us even until the end of the age.

So let us work joyfully for the Kingdom of God and pray that he might bless our work.

Matthew joins me wishing you all the very best,
God be with you,
Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

MINISTER

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819254

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

Funerals

On 25th February 2014
Mary Johnston, Port Seton,
91 years old

On 11th March 2014
Andrew Alan Fraser,
Port Seton,
75 years old

Baptism

On 23rd March 2014
Aria McLeay

EDITOR’S NOTE

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

The next issue will be available on **Sunday 8th June 2014**. Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 25th May 2014**. If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on:

chalmerschurch@bopenworld.com or by phone on 819471

Sheila Bulloch

Peter Dicker has been appointed the new manager of East Lothian Foodbank. He thanks all congregations for their support and donations. At the moment the Foodbank is experiencing a particular shortage of Small bags of Sugar, Fruit juice, Long life milk, tinned fruit, rice pudding (tinned), mashed potato powder, tinned or microwaveable sponge puddings and in particular tinned meat products, mince, stewing steak, tinned pies. There is a collection box for the Foodbank in the church hall.



FORTH BRIDGE CROSS – 50th Challenge – SATURDAY 26th APRIL

Celebrations start at 1pm, walk starts at 2pm.

Sponsor forms are now available from Eleanor Willins.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 11th – 17th MAY 2014

We desperately need volunteers if we are to continue taking part in a house to house collection in the village this year. This has always been greatly supported in the village in the past, but it is now becoming more and more difficult in getting people to help. Just a few hours of **your** time will bring lasting change for communities living in conflict, fear and poverty. Please speak to Eleanor Willins (812 616)



Work with young children and families month by month, with a good group of children and families from the village keen to participate in a variety of sessions. Our team of leaders continues to grow, but there is always room for more! Recently Amanda and I were invited to speak at 'Get Together' in March about Kids Kirk. As we said on the day 'it is much easier controlling 30 under 12's than it was the group of 'young' men and women that were there!!' We had a good afternoon, where everyone had a chance to participate in a craft, lots of competitive people wanted to have special 'sparkly specs'. (check out the photos on the website!) We were blessed with a lovely donation toward the work of Kids Kirk. From the outset it was decided not to charge the families, so donations are most welcome. This can be in the form of craft materials, food for 'feast time' or money to buy more resources.

We also continue to work closely with Scripture Union running 3 holiday clubs a year. Our 'Easter Superbook' session is on **Saturday 12th April 10am – 3pm**. Then in the summer we will be running 'Fit for a King' – **Monday 14th – Friday 18th July 10am – 12.30pm**. This has been especially written to coincide with the Commonwealth Games, the theme tune was written by Alastair and Nicola Bruce, it's very catchy, so you may hear leaders humming it very soon!

Kids Kirk meets on 17th May, then on 21st June. On the afternoon of **Saturday 21st June**, we are running a **Family Fun Day 12.30 – 2.30pm**. There will be a taster session of all the activities we have done since September 2013; and also a BBQ (weather permitting). More details will be in the intimations and in the next newsletter, at the moment put the date in your diary! On **Sunday 22nd June, at the 11am service** we will celebrate the baptism of **Luke Davidson** and his sister **Summer**. Luke has attended both Holiday Clubs and Kids Kirk and asked to be baptised, so please come along and help him, Summer and the extended family celebrate a very special day.

If you would like to join the team, or know children that would like to come along please speak to myself or Amanda. The Kids Kirk contact details are - KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or text on 07980 059 974

Sheila Bulloch

Chalmers Memorial Church Youth and Children's Committee

Kids Kirk: -The success of Kids Kirk and Holiday Club should continue to give us all cause to thank God. We should not forget to pray for the excellent team of helpers under the leadership of Sheila Bulloch and Amanda Johnston. They willingly give up time on Saturday mornings once per month for Kids Kirk and also in the summer, at Christmas and Easter for Holiday Club. Without their commitment the work amongst these children would not be possible.

Work with post Primary School young people: - It was agreed at the Committee that there is an urgent need to develop programme action for post Primary School young people. Some of those currently attending Kids Kirk and Holiday Club will be leaving Primary School in June. We must build on the good relationships which have been developed and move ahead to tackle new challenges. A small group from the Youth and Children's Work Committee has been set up to develop thinking and possible action with the name **YKirk** being suggested. Watch this space and keep this group, its thinking and its planning in your prayers.

Sunday morning: - The all age service at 10.15am still continues to provide a very important part in the work with children and families, even though the numbers of children are often small. Sunday Club itself has changed, with a varied pattern from week to week, using Christian related drama, craft and music on different Sundays. Discussion also continues about the possibility of a Kid's Corner in the church. In addition to Sunday Club activity, "busy bags" are being prepared for use by young children who are present at the 11.00 am Sunday morning service. The idea of "busy bags" was first floated based on the action of another East Lothian Church of Scotland. The bags are being prepared by Aileen Parker and Lyn Marshall with the plan to include small toys as well as pictures and materials related to Bible stories for use by children.

John Knox

Finance – the way ahead

Those who attended the Annual Business Meeting will be aware that we ended 2013 with a surplus of £3.364, which was achieved as some of the budgeted property projects were not completed. However, these, and other fabric projects will be carried out this year and to start the ball rolling the Kirk Session recently authorized spending up to, £10,000 to make the Church and hall wind and watertight.

The Kirk Session has budgeted for a deficit of nearly £22,000, which is largely due to ongoing fabric costs. Other long term fabric issues also need to be addressed, including re-wiring the hall and insulating the manse. The General Assembly has mandated every congregation to obtain an Energy Efficiency Certificate for their manse. The Energy Savings Trust recently carried out a survey of the manse and highlighted the lack of insulation, estimating it will cost over £20,000 to make the manse more energy efficient.

The Kirk Session has decided that priority must now be given to bringing the fabric of the buildings up to standard and that this will take a few years to complete. We do not have a final cost of all the work required but it is likely to be somewhere quite substantial but it is essential that we keep all our premises in good condition. To help us raise some funds we will have a Day of Commitment on 27th April with further information being available soon.

The Kirk Session thanks all those who have helped keep the income at its current level during 2013 but it will have to increase this year if we are to offset the budget deficit. If everyone was able to give an extra £1.50 each week that would go a long way to reducing the shortfall.

John Murdoch

Prayers

Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Romans 12:2

We come to you, Eternal God, with our faith and our doubt, our strength and our weakness, our courage and our fear, our failures and our successes. We come to you to be refreshed and cleansed. We come to you in Jesus' name.

Forgive us, Lord, when we lose sight of all you have done and cry out from hearts that are resentful and ungrateful. Restore our relationship with you and with one another, that we may not give up, or make the journey harder for others, but honestly acknowledge our faults and faithfully receive your forgiveness.

For Christ's sake, Amen

Prayers of Intercession

- We pray for all those who cry out for water to drink today
- For those in places of violence, we pray for the outpouring of peace.
- For those in places of poverty, we pray for the outpouring of abundance.
- For those in places of wealth, we pray for the outpouring of generosity.
- For those in places of despair, we pray for the outpouring of hope.
- Those in places of sickness, we pray for the outpouring of healing.
- In all places, Lord, we pray for the outpouring of life, in all its fullness.

Amen

Thanks

George and Cathy Smith would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome they have received since they came here in November. The gift of flowers was much appreciated.

Jessie Hobbs wishes to thank everyone for their kind wishes, cards and gifts on the occasion of her 70th birthday.

Marion Dobie wishes to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and support following the death of her sister Sadie.

George & Isa Scott wish to thank the congregation for the flowers received following George's recent illness.

Cockenzie and Port Seton Holiday Club would like to thank everyone who came along or donated to the recent coffee afternoon. we raised £400 for club funds.

Announcement for

Evening Service with Redemption Hymns:

Your choice counts – The red hymn book will be used again 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.

Offering Bereavement Support

In a recent edition of the Chalmers Church Newsletter, Kristina outlined plans for a process through which bereavement support might be offered as part of Chalmers' life and work. Because of my previous experience with the bereavement support team in the Marie Curie Hospice and my current involvement with the *Acorns Bereavement Support Programmes*, I was asked by Kristina to facilitate a seminar on bereavement issues for members of our congregation. This took place a few weeks ago, and we looked at how bereavement support might best fit in with Chalmers' mission and service and benefit our members and the people of our parish. As Kristina informed us at the recent Congregational Stated Annual Meeting, a plan for bereavement support is now evolving. This will include appropriate training for those who will be involved; looking at a time-scale with proper planning and arrangements; the identification of a suitable venue in the community; taking care with publicity and how we can best offer bereavement support to those who might need it; launching our bereavement support service – probably towards the end of this year or the beginning of 2015; and the identifying of a plan thereafter.



This is an important development in the life of Chalmers Memorial Church and one which has to be handled carefully and sensitively. I'm very pleased that Kristina has invited me to continue to be involved, and I'm looking forward to the planning and delivery of the training, working with a small group on arrangements and publicity, and assisting in the offering of bereavement support for our members and the folk of our parish. Please pray for this piece of Chalmers' work as it unfolds. And watch this space for news of future developments.

Tom Gordon

Holy Week

Monday 14th April

7.30 p.m. **Holy Week Service** in **Chalmers Church** with members of the **Guild**. All welcome.

Maundy Thursday 17th April

7.30p.m. **United Communion Service** in **Cockenzie Methodist Church** Revs Jock & Margaret **STEIN**

Good Friday 18th April

2 - 3 p.m. **Silent Vigil** – Church open for private prayers in **Chalmers Church** Rev Margaret **STEIN** & Sue **LANGDALE**

7.30p.m. **Easter Service** in **Cockenzie Old Parish Church**
Rev Kristina **HERBOLDROSS**

Easter Sunday 20th April

10.00 a.m. **Easter Family Breakfast**

11.00am **Easter Family Service**

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
7.30 p.m. Back to Basics Faith Course

25/2/14 – 15/04/14

Welcome Wednesday

- 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)

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 Intermediate 1 Group
(Aug – April)

Saturday

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

OUR WORSHIP



Rev Kristina Herbold Ross will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 13th April (Palm Sunday)

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

Sunday 20th April (Easter Sunday)

- 10 a.m. EASTER FAMILY BREAKFAST
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

(Please note NO 10.15am service)

Sunday 27th April - DAY of COMMITMENT

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Anne SUTHERLAND
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament of
HOLY COMMUNION
6.15 p.m. Traditional Communion Service with
Redemption Hymns

Sunday 4th May

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

Sunday 11th May (Christian Aid Sunday)

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

Sunday 18th May

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

Sunday 25th May

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

Sunday 1st June

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

Sunday 8th June (Pentecost)

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

Sunday 15th June (Trinity)

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

Sunday 22nd June

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Anne SUTHERLAND
11.00 a.m. Family Service with Sacrament of Baptism
and Sunday School Prizegiving

MINISTER

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Tel: 01875 819254

TREASURER

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FLOWER CONVENER

Mrs Aileen Parker
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Mr John Murdoch
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ACCESS to the HALL contact

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BEADLE

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

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