



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Easter 2015



God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
(2 Corinthians Ch5 v21)

Dear Friends at Chalmers,

I am writing this the day after the eclipse of the sun, which we were lucky enough to observe, and a few days after the amazing show provided by the Northern Lights which cloud obscured in Dunbar.

These two events in ancient times would have been seen as very significant for our ancestors. They would have stirred up feelings of foreboding and anxiety and efforts would have been made to discover what they meant as portents for the future not just of themselves but for the world. This would hardly be surprising when the sun seemed to be the most powerful influence on life, indeed for many was a God, and the Gods were perceived as powers continually in need of being pleased when they expressed displeasure through natural phenomena.

I would like to share with you some very different thoughts that occurred to me. The sun was so bright even in eclipse that we could not look directly at it without being dazzled or even in extreme cases blinded. There is a line in a well-known hymn "tis only the glory of light hideth thee." This points to the fact that God is beyond our seeing and understanding but, as with the sun at eclipse through a pinhole we can see the

nature of the sun projected onto a card, so we can see God projected through even small experience such as ours onto the backdrop of human life. As with the Northern Lights, the aurora borealis, lighting the night sky with wonderful colour as particles from the sun react with our atmosphere, so God produces wonderful unpredictable effects as his Spirit acts upon us.

Aurora Borealis was a term which I believe was coined by Galileo combining the name of the Roman Goddess of the dawn, Aurora, with the Greek name for the North wind, Boreas. This combination of dawn and wind, the latter a term sometimes used to describe the Holy Spirit, speaks to me of the wonder of Easter. The brilliance of a new dawn for humankind perceived in faith as the Spirit leads us to see in it forgiveness, salvation of the world, and the ultimate expression of the triumph of light over darkness and of good over evil.

Liz joins me in wishing you all a very happy Easter.

John Cairns

MINISTER – On Maternity Leave

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Interim Moderator

Rev David D Scott - revdd.scott@gmail.com

Locum Minister

Very Rev Dr John Cairns - johncairns@mail.com



Work with Primary aged children continues to flourish. **Kids Kirk** meets on **Sat 16th May** and then on **Sat 20th June**, when we will have our **FAMILY FUN DAY** at **12.15pm** following the Kids Kirk session – watch out for the intimations and other adverts soon!

YKirk will be starting back in September 2015 after a break. There is an info session on Sunday 12th April at 12noon – more info from Gillian - Ykirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk / 07736 073 960

Places are filling up fast for the joint Easter Holiday Club with Scripture Union next **Saturday 11th April 10am – 3pm**. (£3.50 per child). For more info please contact Sheila - KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or text on 07980 059 974



We are also running a week long club **Monday 13th – Friday 17th July (10am – 12.30pm)**. We are going to be Polar Explorers! So if you have anything relating to the Artic or Antarctic let us know!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10th - 16th MAY

Due to difficulties experienced last year in organising the door to door collection with less volunteers available to help with this task please note that there will be no door to door collection in the village this year. Instead we shall have retiring collections on the Sunday at the start and the Sunday at the end of the Christian aid week. Collecting cans will also be available at all events held during the month of May.

For anyone unable to get to church and who would like to donate to the Christian aid week donations can be sent direct to Christian aid office in Edinburgh or to your local co-ordinator:

Eleanor Willins, 30 Forth Grove, Port Seton, EH32 0TJ

I can also be contacted direct on 01875-812-616

Thanks to everyone for their continued support.

Stewardship

After Lunch had been served on Sunday 29th March, the Stewardship Planning Group made a presentation.

This spoke for the importance of our Church and its buildings within our community. There was an explanation of how our income is used over a typical year and how much we need to maintain our buildings.

Financing our church provides our community with the services of our minister. Our buildings enrich the life of our community as they are home not only to worship, but also to all the groups and organisations that meet there.

Since our Church opened in 1905, generations of worshippers have worked diligently to ensure that our buildings are kept in good order. It is now up to us to ensure that we maintain that legacy, and enable this strong and united worshipping community to carry on God's vital work in the years to come.

This is why we are launching this appeal. Our current income barely covers our running costs, while most of any other funds we hold are designated for other purposes and are not available for the work required to be done in our buildings.

In order to fund the work we have to do to repair and maintain our church buildings and the manse, we need to raise a sum in the order of £70,000, over the next 4 years. This equates to £17,500 per year.

The money that finances our day-to-day work comes from the congregation and your generosity really is appreciated. But we cannot expect this sum to come from an increase in our current giving, although we can all review how much we give each week and see if we can give a bit more, so we are launching a fund raising campaign.

Do you have any ideas for raising funds? A Craft Group is already established and will be producing items for sale. We have a number of ideas already and thanks to those who have suggested them. These include: Silent Auction, Sponsored Walks, Coffee Mornings, Sales, Quiz Nights, Concerts and Recitals, Garage Sales, Merchandise, Odd Jobbing. We now need people to organise individual projects, or perhaps a number of them.

Do you have a fund raising idea or would you be willing to take on the organisation and management of an event? If so please contact one of the Stewardship Planning Group. They are: Ian Bulloch, Mary Gordon, Jean Johnston, John Murdoch, George Smith, Tom Tervit, and Eleanor Willins.

You will shortly receive an explanatory leaflet which is being delivered by Elders in their districts.

We ask that you give prayerful consideration to our fundraising campaign and think about what you can do to help – we look forward to hearing from you. *George Smith*

Thanks

Nanna Naples would like to say Thank You for the flowers she received for her 90th birthday. She had a wonderful party with the family in Pitlochry

I would like to thank all my church family who phoned, sent cards, lovely flowers and visited during my recovery time. My two new hips are great and I feel like the bionic woman. God Bless *Ann Anderson*

Marion Dickson would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers and good wishes and cards received following her recent illness.

Jessie, Stacey & Hazel would like to say thank you for the support they received after the death of baby Connor.

Toni Stewart would like to thank the church for the flowers she received recently.

Helen Stewart would like to thank everyone who came to the service for Peter. Thanks also for the cards, flowers and prayers for Peter. Thanks to Tom Gordon for the comforting service. The retiral collections raised for St Columba's Hospice was £760.

Anne & Bert Hildersley would like to thank the church family for the prayer support during Anne's recent illness. The many flowers, cards, visits and acts of kindness have been greatly appreciated.

(Editor's apology – missed from last newsletter)

Funerals

On 27th February
Peter Stewart, Longniddry,
Aged 67 years

On 9th March
Douglas Sinclair, Edinburgh,
Aged 94 years

On 12th March
David Weston Whitecross, Port Seton,
Aged 77 years

Welcome Wednesday GET TOGETHER

Our Wednesday Get Together meetings are going from strength to strength and are enjoyed by all who come. It is a very relaxing afternoon with a good blether and lots of laughter. We have a very varied programme and every month a surprise even to the group leaders some months.

On the serious note our donations each month are donated to various charities. Since last April we have donated over £600 thanks to all those who come and give so generously. If you would like to join us 2nd Wednesday each month but need a lift please contact Moyra or Ann.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on **Sunday 7th June 2015**.

Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 24th May 2015**. If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on:

chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com or by phone on 819471

Sheila Bulloch



CHALMERS CRAFTERS

The Crafters are now busily working making an assortment of interesting gifts - knitted, sewn, embroidered, and crocheted. There will be dolls, jumpers, baby knits, book marks, cards, baby blankets, tea cosies, hats, brooches.....or anything you may like to request, we will try to oblige. Aran Knits.....speak to Helen Stewart. Personalised bookmarks for special occasions or to mark the Church year...speak to Anne Sutherland. All other enquiries to Cathy Smith or Elizabeth Glover.

The Crafters meet usually on the first and third Thursday at 10.30 in the Visitors' Room of the Hall. Join us with your ideas or to see what is available. Sales will be held at the 3 Harbours' Festival and at other occasions throughout the year. All proceeds to the Stewardship Fund. Spare wool, material or threads would be gratefully received.

PRAYERS

But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these - Luke Ch18 v16

Hear us Father as we pray for others:

We pray for the children who come to Kids Kirk. We thank you for their enthusiasm and the sense of joy they bring.

We pray for children without caring homes or loving parents.

We pray for all victims of child abuse or neglect.

We pray for families under stress and strain, whether through problems with money, employment or personal relationship[s].

We pray for children and young people growing up without adequate opportunities to fulfil their potential.

We pray for children and young people who know nothing of your great love for them.

Be near to those who need your comfort and blessing

We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

Tribute to Elder Peter Stewart

We were all sorry to learn of the death of Peter Stewart who died on the 18th of February in St Columba's Hospice after a period of illness. Peter was Ordained as an Elder on 8 April 2001 and served as a District Elder in and around Longniddry until he retired from the Session last summer shortly before his health began to deteriorate.

Peter attended most Kirk Session meetings even though he was not particularly comfortable in that environment, preferring to be doing something more practical in and around the Church or looking after those in his District, especially those less able to get around.

Peter was diagnosed with cancer in 2010 and went through a seven hour operation and while he recovered his wife, Helen, helped him with his Elder's duties, especially visiting and delivering the Church Magazine and Communion cards. That said whenever he was fit he was out and about in his District and visiting members of the congregation residing in the various local nursing homes.

Shortly before his health broke down last summer Peter, decided to resign as a member of the Kirk Session but in doing so he made it clear that he still wanted to help around the Church on a Sunday and, indeed, he was still carrying out that role when he last attended Church, a few weeks before he died. He is already being missed.

We all miss Peter, he just went about his business quietly and without any fuss, and taking time to chat to everyone he met. Peter was diagnosed with terminal cancer last August and we all marvelled at the fortitude he showed in the period leading up to his death. His faith and courage should be an example to us all.

We have all lost a good friend and at this time we extend our sorrow to his wife, Helen, and to all his friends and family.

John Murdoch - 26 February 2015

Stepping Stones Bereavement Programmes

Background - When the Kirk Session identified bereavement support as a priority, eight members of the congregation were trained, and, guided by Tom Gordon, the "Stepping Stones Bereavement Programmes" were planned. The group decided to offer two six-week programmes in the first half of 2015. These would be run in Cockenzie house, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. After the two programmes, the team will make longer-term plans and report to the Kirk Session.

The bereavement team - The eight people in the bereavement team have been divided into two groups of four. One group has facilitated the opening programme. The other group will facilitate the second. Evaluation forms will be made available to all those who participate in the two programmes and feedback from these will be used for assessment purposes. At the conclusion of the second programme, the team will review the programmes and make appropriate adjustments and forward plans. Tom is leading each programme and will guide the team through the review process.

Publicity - Leaflets have been prepared and printed, and, along with inserts outlining the two programmes, distributed round the parish - local GP surgeries, Chemist, Community Centre and other community facilities - and further afield - local churches, community bases. Small posters have also been made available. An article has appeared in *The Courier*. With the current programme underway, posters advertising the second programme are being made available locally.

First programme - This ran running on Thursday afternoons during January and February. Seven people participated, from Port Seton, Prestonpans and Tranent. Each session had an input from a specialist familiar with the topic for our discussions. The participants had heard about the programme from the Chemist's, local GPs and *The Courier*. Most of the participants 'registered' by email or telephone. Several had been in touch seeking further information.

Second programme - This will take place in Cockenzie House on Tuesday evenings, starting on 28th April. Eight people have already indicated their wish to participate.

Future plans - Without pre-empting decisions about future plans, it is likely that the team will plan to run further "Stepping Stones" programmes in the name of Chalmers Church. Further contacts are being made with Citizens Advice Bureaux, Community Support programmes and churches further afield. Setting up a local support programme for bereaved people has clearly created a lot of interest.

Tom Gordon, February 2015

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

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)



OUR WORSHIP

Very Rev Dr John Cairns will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

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)
4 – 6pm YKirk (2nd Friday of month) (Sept – June)

Saturday

- 8.00 – 9.15a.m Prayer Breakfast (last of month)
10am-12noon Kids Kirk (3rd Sat of month)
(Sept – June)

Sunday 12th April

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

Sunday 19th April

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Duncan MORGAN
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship – Rev David SCOTT

Sunday 26th April - DAY of COMMITMENT

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Joyce BUCHANAN
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament of
HOLY COMMUNION
6.15p.m. Evening Worship – Rev Tom GORDON

Sunday 3rd May

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

Sunday 10th May

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship
– Music Time with Pamela
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 17th May

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – A trip down Luke Street –
Amanda JOHNSTON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship – Rev Jim RIACH

Sunday 24th May

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

Sunday 31st May

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Ian BULLOCH - **Please note
this service will take place in the Church due to Hall being used for
3 harbours Art Festival**
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
6.15p.m. Evening Worship – Rev Tom GORDON

Sunday 7th June

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Duncan MORGAN - **Please
note this service will take place in the Church due to Hall being
used for 3 harbours Art Festival**
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship



3 Harbours Art Festival – 30th May – 7th June

Our Church is open during the festival 11am – 5pm (2pm – 5pm on
Sundays) Teas and coffee will be served in the vestibule/gardens.

MINISTER- On Leave

Rev. Kristina Herbold Ross
Tel: 01875 819254

TREASURER

Mrs Janet Farquhar
Tel: 811863

FLOWER CONVENER

Mrs Lyn Marshall
Tel: 814265

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

Miss Jean Johnston
Tel: 810520

BEADLE

Vacancy
Tel:

PRAYER SECRETARY

Mrs Patricia Knox
Tel: 815423



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