



## Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Easter 2017



**God gave you the honour both of believing in Christ and suffering for Christ.  
Both these things bring glory to Christ. Philippians 1:29**

Dear Friends

As I write this we are journeying through the season of Lent which covers the forty days or six weeks before Easter. This recalls the time Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness and it's worth remembering that this period was for Jesus a time of great struggle, and victory, which is no doubt why Lent leads up to the events of Holy Week and Easter Day.

With so much going on it's hard to see Easter as anything more than just another holiday, another family dinner, or another sign of spring. But Easter was never meant to be just a spiritual bump on the road to self-fulfillment, it was meant to be a whole new road. Easter is the perfect time to rethink the road you're on, where it's leading, and whether it's where you want to go.

We're all natural born travelers, but since we're not homing pigeons, we don't have a natural sense of direction or internal GPS. We know we're moving through stages in our lives, we're just not sure we know where we are and where we're going. Easter is a signpost inviting us to get our bearings and travel a new way to a new place to live a new kind of life.

Now I realise there's a lot about Easter which may turn some travelers off and make some committed religious folks angry. It always has and always will. But the One who has travelled this way before gave us clues about what we might expect. His name is Jesus and his story is nothing less than miraculous. Easter is His story and His invitation to experience life as it was meant to be.

As a Church community we are committed to travel the road God has prepared for us, share the joys and burdens common to travelers, and marvel at the wonders and surprises that lie ahead. Easter is a defining moment in your life when you must choose to stay in the rush hour traffic going nowhere in particular or take a chance and trust God's plan. Movement without meaning leads to frustration. So if this letter finds you travelling down a bumpy road filled with frustration and anxiety, Easter is your invitation to discover a whole new way of living.

If you can, please do come to the Holy Week and Easter services listed later in this newsletter and hear the miraculous story.

Jacqui joins me in wishing you God's blessing for Easter  
Yours in Jesus  
Mike

Thank you for the patience and trust you have shown in your elders over the last 6 months as they have dealt with some difficult issues. It is great that we are now moving on – and doing so together.

We now have three pieces of good news which should be shared and celebrated:

1. At the February meeting of Lothian Presbytery Sheila Bulloch shared the story of Kid's Kirk. It was a story that encouraged and inspired many. God is at work in Chalmers.
2. At the same meeting Presbytery agreed to cover most of Chalmers' financial liabilities from its funds.
3. As a result of this, Chalmers can now proceed to elect a nominating committee – which is the next step in calling a minister.

Finding a minister may not be straightforward. At the moment there are many more churches than there are ministers in the Church of Scotland. This means that some churches have spent a number of years looking for a minister.

One thing that makes a difference is the manse. In some ways, being given a manse to live in is a huge attraction for a minister. In other ways it is not. A minister is not given a choice. The manse is non-negotiable. If someone is to become the minister of Chalmers church then they HAVE to live in the manse provided. Ministers are almost unique now in not being given any choice about the house they live in.

An attractive manse does not guarantee a minister. But potential ministers will only apply if they think they (and more importantly their family) would be happy to live in the manse.

Our manse should be attractive to ministers ... but it is NOT at the moment. It is not up to current standards. Specifically its insulation needs upgrading.

The Kirk Session is trying to raise funds to deal with this. It is going to ask the congregation to help. I'm sure you will respond generously when the time comes.

Mean time please continue to pray for our church, for its mission in our community and for our next minister.

Rev Neil Dougall, Interim Moderator

## Funerals

On 6 <sup>th</sup> February	James Wybar, Port Seton
On 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Janet McNeill, Port Seton
On 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	James Swan, Longniddry
On 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Alastair Kidd, Cockenzie

## Thanks

*Mary and Alex Scott* would like to thank everyone for the flowers and good wishes they received following recent times in hospital.

*Jacqui Watson* would like to thank all her friends at Chalmers for the lovely flowers she received when she was unwell recently.

*Sheila Watters* would like to thank the church for all the lovely flowers received during a long period of absence.

I would like to thank the church for the flowers we received on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our mother's tragic death. They were very much appreciated. *The McPhee Family.*

Thanks are expressed to everyone who sponsored the Chalmers Ramblers, the total raised was **£935.**

*Due to the lack of space in the newsletter, I am unable to record every 'thank you' for the flowers received on a Sunday. These will therefore be posted in the noticeboard on the hall. Thanks for flowers received for special occasions will be mentioned in the newsletter.*  
*Sheila, editor*

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017**. Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**. If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on: [chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com](mailto:chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com) or by phone on 819471

*Sheila Bulloch*

## Interim Moderator

Rev Neil Dougall

Home telephone 01620 892132

[ndougall@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:ndougall@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## Locum Minister

Rev Mike Watson

Home telephone 01875 320043

Mobile 07702 229886

[MWatson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:MWatson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**ADVENT ANGELS** - Many congregations have, for the last few years, been producing Advent Angels to distribute around their towns or villages to pass on Christmas greetings or invite people to church. The Crafters are taking up this challenge but need the help of other knitters in the congregation. Easy patterns are available from Dorothy Tervit or Elizabeth Glover. Alternatively you can knit rectangles - In white DK wool, size 4mm needles cast on 25 stitches and stocking stitch 5 inches. A collecting box will be in the church vestibule for contributions. Thank you.

## Session Section

Our vacancy procedure moves on! Thanks to those who joined their thoughts to the discussion which the Kirk Session had at their last meeting concerning the kind of ministry that we need in our church in the future. Several points were expressed from members of the congregation, and we take strength from the trust you show in us to make informed decisions on the church's behalf.

Our discussion was wide ranging and took into account not only our past and current experiences, but also looked to the future of what is facing the church with the decline of available ministers and the developing vision of what this might mean in the coming years. We wish to not only maintain but also develop our witness in our community along with our neighbours, and it was felt by the majority that a full-time ministry rather than a ministry under Guardianship was preferred to make this possible.

This Newsletter comes out on the day we will be electing our Nominating Committee who will begin the search for a new full-time minister. Once their work is started, we will be kept informed of process only until a nominee is appointed. This may take some months, but we know we are in the safest of hands currently with Mike to encourage us.

Other more practical decisions continue to challenge us, and the Stewardship Committee has the responsibility for weighing up some options against costs involved. This will be further explained as we approach the Day of Giving. Our Accounts for 2016 have been approved and will be presented to you at our Stated Annual Meeting which will be held after the service of Communion on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

God is with us in all our deliberations, and so are you in your prayers for us. Thankyou...

*Mary Gordon, Session Clerk*

As we go to press, we only have 2 sessions left in our **Kids Kirk** and **Youth Kirk** programme for 2016/17! It's been a busy few months traveling with Paul around the Mediterranean. For those who come along to the Take Away Treats Service on a Sunday, you have learned the theme song, and by June, we'll have 8 verses! Have a look around the church hall and look at 'The Story so far....' Boards. The young people in **Youth Kirk** are growing and developing in new ways, they have explored Love and Emotions and have begun a few sessions on the **Red Letters** of Christ as printed in the Bible. It has been a joy to watch these young people explore the Bible. We have purchased updated Bibles for them to enhance their learning and engagement in God's Word. In February Sheila was invited to speak to Lothian Presbytery in a slot called 'Good News' she spoke about the work of **Kids Kirk** and **Youth Kirk**. This was a great opportunity to share what we are doing in Chalmers across Lothian. Our annual **Family Fun Day** will be on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June from 12.30pm** - to which EVERYONE is invited!

**Holiday Club News** - There is an **Easter Fun Day** for children P1 - P7, **10am-3.30pm** on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April**. We would love to see YOU come along and join the children and team from **2.30pm**, to hear about their day, get messy with a craft and have a cuppa. On the Sunday evening, 9<sup>th</sup> April, the Youth Kirk will have an **Easter Celebration Evening 6pm - 8pm**. There will be a fundraising coffee afternoon in Chalmers to help raise money for Holiday Clubs in our village on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May**, more details to follow in the intimations and on our Facebook Page. **Sheila Bulloch & Amanda Johnston** [KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk](mailto:KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk) or 07980 059 974.

## Fundraising

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March we were treated to a great evening of music and song from the musicals, by Ross Hamilton and Friends. The proceeds of the evening were shared between ourselves and one of the music projects which Ross is running. Our share was **£280** which has gone to our Restoration fund. Our thanks again to Ross for organising this and for all the hard work by many which ensured the success of the evening.

Look out for the next event, a concert in the Church Hall by the Dalkeith and Monktonhall Brass Band on the 21st April - Tickets (or at the door) £7 (children £3) **George Smith, Stewardship Convenor** 01875 898746 / [geos0101@gmail.com](mailto:geos0101@gmail.com)

## World Mission Stamp Project

Thank you to all who have collected stamps towards the World Mission Stamp Project Appeal. The 2016 appeal which runs up until the end of February 2017 has up-to-date raised an amazing total of £3,528 which will be used to support the Church of South India's Othara Eco-Spirituality Centre near Thiruvalla in Kerala. This is a place where people can come to learn about climate change and the importance of conserving the earth God has given us.

The Stamp Project for 2017 will be to support the Giffin Institution of Theology in Southern Sudan to help in the provision of books.

I shall be pleased at any time to receive used stamps to be passed on to World Mission. Alice Hood

## Holy Week

### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April

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

### Maundy Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April

7.30p.m. **United Communion Service** in **Cockenzie Methodist Church**

### Good Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April

2 - 3 p.m. **Silent Vigil** - Church open for private prayers in **Chalmers Church**

7.30p.m. **Easter Service** in **Chalmers Church**

### Easter Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April

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

11.00am **Easter Family Service** in **Chalmers Church**

## GIFT AID

Charities rely more and more on income from Gift Aid donations and this congregation is no exception. Gift Aid allows charities to recover 25% from HMRC where donors are tax payers. In 2016 our income from donations was £84,220 of which £12,298 resulted from Gift Aid tax recoveries. Most Church congregations, including us, would find life very difficult if we did not recover this money from HMRC.

The Kirk Session has actively promoted Gift Aid for some years and while we have been reasonably successful more needs to be done. We would ask if you pay income tax and have not signed up please do so now. It's quite simple, all you need to do is to sign a form indicating that you are a tax payer and as HMRC do complete audits we need to be able to identify payments and ask donors to either use FWO envelopes or to have a Bankers Order in place.

Some people have signed a Gift Aid form and put cash into the open plate but as we cannot physically identify that money we cannot recover any Gift Aid. If you are one of those then please consider changing how you donate. The Kirk Session has also decided that those donating money at all our events, lunches, fund raising, restoration etc. should be given the opportunity to Gift Aid their donation. People will be asked to provide their details (name, address, post code and amount) on a standard form or place their donation in a Gift Aid envelope. We have been doing this for some time, with limited success but we could do better - after all it does not cost anyone any more.

It is becoming more difficult to increase our income to cover ongoing costs but if we can recover more Gift Aid income then that will help the financial position in these difficult times. At present our Gift Aid income is about 15% of our donated income. If we can get that up to 20% what a difference that would make. Surely that can be achieved with not too much effort.

If anyone would like more information or want to start using Gift Aid then please speak to me or Eleanor Willins.

John Murdoch

## 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)  
6-7.30pm Youth Kirk (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month) (Sept – June)

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

10.00 a.m. Chalmers Ramblers Walking Group  
7.30 p.m. Prayer Meeting

## Welcome Wednesday

10.30-11.30a.m. Chalmers Crafters (1<sup>st</sup> of month)  
1.30 – 3pm Indoor Curling (1<sup>st</sup> & last of month)  
10 - 11a.m. Prayer Time (2<sup>nd</sup> of month)  
1.30 – 3pm Get Together (2<sup>nd</sup> of month)  
12-2p.m. Lunches (3<sup>rd</sup> of month)  
10a.m – 12noon Coffee Time (last of month)



## OUR WORSHIP

**Rev Mike Watson will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.**

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April – Palm Sunday**

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Amanda Johnston  
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April –Easter Sunday**

10.00 am Easter Family Breakfast  
11.00 a.m. Easter Family Service

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship - Tom Gordon  
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April – Day of Commitment**

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Duncan Morgan  
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship with Sacrament of **HOLY COMMUNION**. Followed by the S.A.M  
6.15 p.m. Evening Worship – Rev Tom Gordon

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Mary Gordon  
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

11.00 a.m. *Joint Service in Chalmers for  
Christian Aid* with Marilyn Steel DCS

### Wednesday – Evening Activities

5 – 6 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

5:15 – 6:15p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Cockenzie Rainbows }  
6:30 – 8 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Port Seton Brownies }  
(Sept. - June)

### Friday

1 – 3.30pm Childcare National 4 Group  
(Aug – April)

### Saturday

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

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Take Away Treat – Ian Bulloch  
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – Rev Tom Gordon

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Marathon Sunday**

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – George Smith  
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship  
6.15 p.m. Evening Worship – Rev Tom Gordon

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Pentecost**

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev Mike Watson  
**Please note this service will take place in the Church due to Hall being used  
for 3 Harbours Art Festival**  
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity**

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Joyce Buchanan  
**Please note this service will take place in the Church due to Hall being used  
for 3 Harbours Art Festival**  
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

### Easter Daffodils

Would like to help decorate the church for Easter? We will be collecting Daffodils from Gosford Estate on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April**. Please speak to Loreen Courtney for further information.



#### **MINISTER –**

In Transition  
Tel: 01875 819254

#### **TREASURER**

Mr Ian Bulloch  
Tel: 852717

#### **FLOWER CONVENER**

Mrs Lyn Marshall  
Tel: 814265

#### **SESSION CLERK**

Mrs Mary Gordon  
Tel: 812262

#### **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

SC004630 Cockenzie and Port Seton: Chalmers Memorial Parish Church (Church of Scotland) 'Scottish Charity'. [www.chalmerschurch.co.uk](http://www.chalmerschurch.co.uk)