



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Easter 2023



The LORD is my shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as he has promised. Psalm 23:1-3

The Manse, March 2023

Dear Friends,

As you receive this newsletter, we will be coming to the closing stages of the season of Lent as we approach Holy Week. During recent weeks, we've taken some key passages from scripture – among them the temptations, the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus, as well as the story of the Samaritan woman at the well – and considered them, both at our services of worship on a Sunday morning and as part of our first joint Lenten study group.

Many of the passages of scripture that we consider at this time of year are actually about conversations involving Jesus in which he encounters different people in varying situations where he helps them, and through them us also, to encounter the God who meets us in our own situations and who helps us according to our needs.

We believe that our God understands us. We believe that God can help us and that through Jesus he draws near to us. We aspire to the belief that, as a result of his love towards us, that we need have no fear or trepidation in the presence of the Divine.

This, after all, is the message that runs right through the whole of the Easter story – the God who approaches us, the God who dwelt amongst us and the God who showed his love for us in the events of the Cross. Could I encourage you, therefore, to come along to one or other, or perhaps all, of the Holy Week services that you will see advertised later in this newsletter? These are special services.

You will also find in this newsletter a brief update on the current situation regarding the discussions with the Old Parish Church and our prospective union with them. These discussions are going very well and we are now discussing substantive matters as we work on the shape of a united congregation. There is, as yet no fixed date for a union to take place.

So, we wait and are patient. Lent is, of course, all about waiting and patience which is why I conclude these words with a short prayer that I discovered recently that encourages each of us to remain patient and trusting in our God as we wait for the next steps to be taken:

Patient and loving God, be with us as we sit in the in-between places of our lives, waiting for the next thing to happen. We are grateful that you never abandon us as we wait. Help us to see the good that is all around us as we wait for your reign on earth, Amen.

Your friend and Minister
Robin Allison (Rev)

Our Minister

Rev Robin N Allison

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Baptisms

Hallie Margaret Parkin, infant daughter of Ross & Nicola Parkin, Port Seton, on Sunday 15th January 2023.

Funerals since last newsletter

Mrs Mary Cowe, Cockenzie. Funeral 4th January 2023

Mr John Stewart, Haddington (formerly Port Seton)
Funeral 19th January 2023

Mrs Frances Martin, Port Seton. Funeral 14th February 2023

Mr George Murdoch, Port Seton. Funeral 16th February 2023

Mr Peter Jarron, Port Seton. 7th March 2023



Children and Youth News

Kids Kirk is growing in numbers each month. Our children have been exploring the **Bible Olympic Games** exploring lots of sports. They have developed new relationships with each other and the team of leaders. We will have an **Easter Special on Saturday 15th April**. Please join us for a cuppa and catch up with the team from 12noon. There is an Event in the Community Centre on Saturday 29th April. The **Kids Kirk** team will have a table of crafts available for children to do, please come along and support us.

Following the April session, we will meet on 13th May and the last one for this session, will be on 17th June.

Booking and further details can be found on our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/chalmersmemorial> or text Sheila on 07980 059 974.

God Bless, *Sheila & Amanda*

Session Section

Our meeting in January had full reports from our committees, to whom thanks are expressed for all their ongoing work and attention to their individual responsibilities.

Most important in our focus just now, is the proposed union of Chalmers Church with the Old Parish. Further to our last report, the 'vision' of our new church in 5 years' time was taken by the joint churches Steering Group to consider how we could practically work to further these hopes.

Working groups were set up from Steering Group representatives from both churches, and these reported to the latest meeting on 9th March. The report aims were:

1. **Buildings:** To identify significant items/artefacts from each church which might be kept or absorbed into our buildings, and changes which might be made to both worship and meeting spaces to accommodate our aspirations. To support the Old Parish considering options for disposal of their buildings.
2. **Worship:** To consider current worship services, possible amendments or additions to these and identifying best use of leadership, musical talents and training that might be offered.
3. **Mission: Community Involvement and Congregational Life:** To identify areas where there is crossover in work and witness in church activity, with the intention of bringing groups of common interest together and arrange a combined strategy for the new congregation – e.g., Guilds, flower distribution, coffee morning/afternoons, etc.
4. **Pastoral Care and Leadership:** To consider continuing of district and pastoral visiting into the new congregation with a view to combining the new membership list into manageable units. Office-bearers/committees from both churches will meet to combine their experience and agree the practicalities of resources required for continuation of their responsibilities in the new congregation.

A summary of recommendations will have been discussed at both Sessions (in Chalmers on 16th March) and feedback will go to the next Steering Group meeting in May. As always, members are encouraged to discuss any suggestions/concerns relating to this with their Elders, or members of the Steering Group: Rev Allison, Mary Gordon, Lyn Marshall, George Smith, Colin Sutherland.

M Gordon, Session Clerk



Tuesday 4th April

7pm – Service in Chalmers Church

Thursday 6th April (Maundy Thursday)

7pm – Communion Service in the Methodist

Friday 7th April (Good Friday)

7pm – Service in the Old Parish Church

All are more than welcome to any or all of the Holy Week Services

Churches Together Group

We had a very successful fundraiser for Christian Aid, organised by the three churches. This was held in the Old Parish Hall and took the form of various stalls and teas, coffees and some delicious cakes! It was really encouraging to see our friends from the Old Parish, the Methodists and Chalmers Memorial working together, with people from our churches and the community enjoying themselves. The sum raised was £800, with more to be collected from Gift Aid.

Look out for the Joint Churches Easter Card dropping through your letter box shortly.

We have agreed on a number of joint services. As our church is easier to reach on Marathon Sundays, joint services will be held at Chalmers Memorial at 10.30am.

The Churches are planning to be represented at the Community Event to be held in the Community Centre on the 29th April, 10am – 3pm,

George Smith – Convener C&PS Churches Together Group.

Stewardship Committee

We have at last completed the collation and analysis of your “Can You Help” responses. We are appointing coordinators for each category; these contacts will be published shortly. In the meantime, some of our members will be in touch with respondents, by email for the majority, to keep folk advised of progress. The Committee apologises that it has taken longer to get to this stage than we anticipated.

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

This is a project to encourage parents before (and after) picking up children from school, or indeed anyone else who would like to join us to come along for tea or coffee and chat. This will take place on a Thursday afternoon between 1:30pm and 4:00pm, in the cosy room below the stage. We are thankful for the team of eighteen volunteers who have been arranged into rotas of three, to look after things. Our first session will be on 23rd April; if you'd like to come along, we'd love to see you.

George Smith – Convener Stewardship Committee.

Fabric Report

In recent weeks the manse kitchen has been replaced. We had hoped to have also replaced the facing to the vestibule between the Church and Hall but have suffered unexpected problems. The ceiling joists are rotting and the extent of the problem is being investigated but it will be some time before this project will be completed. The pigeons have been removed from the belfry which has been made “pigeon proof.” However, we have still to get the weathervane fixed and the louvred slats painted, which is the largest project outstanding. As scaffolding will be required for that work the cost is presently estimated at around £13,000. Some electrical work is also needed in the Church but the more pressing issue is to repair the ceiling beside the NE gallery window which collapsed at the end of January. A missing slate appears to have been the cause of water dripping on to the ceiling for some time. It was quite fortuitous that when the ceiling collapsed, we had contractors coming to check the roof to try and find the source of water entering the building above a couple of the other windows. Hopefully the building is now watertight but we have not had any material rain since the work was done so the jury is still out.

John Murdoch

Thanks

Bruce Lindsay would like to thank the church members who joined him for his 90th Birthday celebration at Cockenzie House on the 19th February. He had a lovely time, and it was wonderful to see his family and friends all congregated in one room. He would also like to thank everyone for the lovely cards and gifts. For those who made a donation to MacMillan we were able to have the funds matched by Clare's work and therefore £200 will be sent to the charity on the 25th March 2023.

Lyn & John Marshall would like to thank the whole congregation for their support during the last month. They express their gratitude on behalf of the entire family for the many messages of support, and we were quite overwhelmed with the attendance at the funeral and reception afterwards. Special thanks to the tea ladies, as this was delivered quite spectacularly! The church family certainly supported our family during this time!

SAFEGUARDING - Whistleblowing

At our January meeting, the Kirk Session approved the adoption of a 'Whistleblowing Policy' which the Church of Scotland had recommended to all churches. Resolution of any discord would normally be sought through our local Complaints Policy, but this would be in place where circumstances meant that that procedure might be deemed inappropriate, or to process more serious issues.

A copy of the *Whistleblowing Policy* can now be found, along with other Policy notices, in the Church Hall.

M Gordon/C Maclean

Gift Aid

We recently received £7,151.80 from HMRC for the last 6 monthly Gift Aid Claim. Thanks to everyone who contributes to the Gift Aid Scheme, your support is greatly appreciated.

Sunday

10:00am - All-age Worship (in Hall, led by the worship team)
11.00am - Morning Worship

Monday

2.30pm - Guild (1st Monday of the Month) (Oct-March)
6-8.30pm - Beavers and Cubs

Tuesday

10.00am - Chalmers Ramblers Walking Group
6.00-7.30pm - Brownies
7.00pm - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)
8.00-10pm - AA Group

Wednesday

10.30am - Chalmers Crafters (1st Wednesday of month)
10am - 12 - Coffee and Chat (Last of month)
1.30-3.00pm - Indoor Curling (1st and Last of month)
1.30-3.00pm - Get Together (2nd of month)
5.00-6.15pm - Rainbows
7.00-9.00pm - Scouts

Thursday

6.00-8.00pm - Brownies

Friday

9.30-10.15am - Stretch and Strength Exercise Class
10.30am-2pm - AA Group

Saturday

10.00am-12 noon - Kids Kirk (3rd Saturday of month)

**OUR WORSHIP**

Rev Robin Allison will conduct worship unless otherwise stated

Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday

10.00am All-Age Worship – Rev Robin Allison
11.00am Morning Worship – followed by S.A.M

Holy Week Services on Page 2**Sunday 9th April – Easter Sunday**

10.00am Family Breakfast
11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 16th April

10.00am All-Age Worship – George Smith
11.00am Morning Worship – Ian Bulloch

Sunday 23rd April

10.00am All-Age Worship – Colin Sutherland
11.00am Morning Worship with Holy Baptism

Sunday 30th April

10.00am All-Age Worship – Ian Bulloch
11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 7th May – Coronation Weekend

10.00am All-Age Worship – Mary Gordon
11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 14th May

10.00am All-Age Worship – Tom Gordon
11.15am Morning Worship – Joint Christian Aid Service in Old Parish Church

**Sunday 21st May**

10.00am All-Age Worship – Amanda Johnston
11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 28th May - Marathon Day

10.30am Morning Worship – Joint Service in Chalmers **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME**

Sunday 4th June

10.00am All-Age Worship – Colin Sutherland
11.00am Morning Worship with Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 11th June

10.00am All-Age Worship – George Smith
11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 18th June

10.00am All-Age Worship – Ian Bulloch
11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 25th June

10.00am All-Age Worship – Mary Gordon
11.00am Morning Worship

MINISTER

Rev Robin N Allison
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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

Mr Bob Glover
Tel: 818759

HALL LETS

Colin & Anne Sutherland
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BEADLE

VACANCY
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SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR

Mrs Christine Maclean
Tel: 07391591006



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

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