



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Easter 2024



Yet God knows every step I take; if he tests me, he will find me pure. I follow faithfully the road he chooses, and never wander to either side. Job 23: 10-11

Dear Friends,

The Manse, March 2024

At a recent Kirk Session I shared some thoughts with the elders about Jesus' declaration to Peter at Matthew 18 and verse 16 when he says, *"I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."*

As I shared those words, I pondered aloud if Jesus had only ever said those words to Peter alone. Was Peter the only one whom Jesus said this to? Might it be possible that he said the same to the other disciples too? The problem is that we simply don't know and yet, I found myself almost wishing that he had... I like to think that he turned to Matthew and called him *a stone*... or said that John was *a brick*... and that Bartholomew was *a doorstep* in the Kingdom of God...

And, if it were possible that Jesus said these sorts of things, I wondered what he might say to us today... Would he ask us – *"Are you a stone?... A rock?... A brick? Or even a stepping stone?"*

At this time of challenge and change in the Church, I believe that Jesus still calls us to work for his Kingdom. Stones are solid. They are dependable. They do not easily change shape. Used in the right way, they can also be used as building blocks as well as steps into the Kingdom of God.

As we approach Easter, we are reminded that Jesus was to tell the disciples that, once he was gone from their sight, they would need to be the building blocks to the future.

I think he asks the same of us today. In fact, I know he does...

With every blessing and best wishes,

Your friend and Minister
Robin Allison (Rev)

Our Minister
Rev Robin N Allison
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Tuesday 26th March

7pm – Service in Old Parish Church

Thursday 28th March (Maundy Thursday)

7pm – Communion Service in the Methodist

Friday 29th March (Good Friday)

2-3pm Church Open for Private Prayer

7pm – Service in the Chalmers Church

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



We're over half way though **Kids Kirk** at **Streetwise**. Our regular group of children have engaged in stories, crafts and games as we travel along Luke Street. Sessions for this term are on **16th March**, when we will explore the story of the Passover. On **20th April**, we will have an Easter Special. **18th May**, we conclude the Easter story. Our final session for this term will be on **15th June**, when we will look at the story of Zacchaeus. Families, Friends and the Church family are welcome to come along from **12.15pm on 15th June**. We will share a time together recapping all the places we have visited. Why not come along and join us for a bite to eat. Celebrate with the children and the team.

Please contact Sheila to request further information.

<https://www.facebook.com/chalmersmemorial> or text - 07980 059 974.

God Bless, *Sheila, Amanda and team*



Thanks

Addie Johnston's family thank everyone for the kind donations. We received £622 for the John Bellany Centre, a place dad loved later in life.

Bob and Elizabeth Glover wish to thank the good folk of Chalmers for the many expressions of concern and practical support following Bob's sudden illness. Your love and prayers have meant so much.

Jessie Hobbs would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards, gifts and flowers as she celebrated her 80th birthday.

Alice Johnston would like to say thank you for the lovely flowers she received from the Church following a short illness. They were very much appreciated.

George Smith thanks everyone for the flowers, messages and prayers on his return home after a knee replacement.

Sheila Bulloch & Amanda Johnston wish to thank everyone for the kindness shown following the sudden death of their dog Alfie.

Church Union Update – March 2024

The discussions between Chalmers Memorial and the Old Parish have been ongoing for around a year now. During that time there have been numerous meetings of the sub groups appointed by each Kirk Session which have been facilitated, on behalf of the Presbytery of Lothian and the Borders, by Rev Graham Duffin, minister at Loanhead and Bilston Church. There have been several reports given to each Kirk Session involved, some statements at Sunday Worship, two joint congregational conferences and a joint Kirk Session meeting. There have also been a number of extra joint services to allow us to worship together.

The discussions have now reached a very important junction point. Decisions now need to be made. The first of those “decisions” was taken by the Kirk Sessions of both congregations in mid-February. They have now overwhelmingly approved the “Basis of Union” prepared by the Presbytery.

The basis of Union is a “legal” document that forms the basis of agreement between each congregation as we approach union. It states, for example, the buildings that will be retained and those which will be sold or otherwise disposed of, the name of the new congregation (now agreed as Cockenzie and Port Seton Parish Church of Scotland), the constitution of the new congregation and so on and so forth.

This now clears the way for a final congregational vote on **28th of April 2024**. On that date both congregations will vote by secret ballot as to whether they accept the basis on which the congregations will unite. The Old Parish also have to vote to accept Rev Robin Allison as their new Minister. If the votes are positive, then the union will take place on or around **27th of October 2024**.

Prior to the vote you will be supplied, by your elder, with an information booklet which contains more details of what has been discussed over these recent months as well as a copy of the actual *Basis of Union*. There will also be an explanation of the process from this stage.

Your vote matters. Your decision counts. You are a vital part of shaping the future of Church and Ministry in and for, this community. Please do try, therefore, to be at Church on **28th April 2024** as you will need to be present to vote and to have your decision recorded.

Rev Robin Allison

Fabric

With the better weather approaching, hopefully, we will get the weathervane and steeple repairs completed before too long. Work is due to commence on 7th March. The main problem over the past months is still dampness to the stonework and water ingress especially at the east side stained glass window.

We have had a consultant examine it and they are going to re-putty the glass work. This is planned for around May and will involve some scaffolding both outside and inside the Church for a few days. In addition it looks as if the winter storms have dislodged a few slates and that is in the process of being attended to as well.

We are short of gardeners this year and if you could spare a couple of hours now and again, mainly to keep the weeds at bay please let me know or just come along when you are free.

John Murdoch, Fabric Convenor

Session Section

The Kirk Session met for ordinary business at the beginning of February, and were sorry to hear of Mrs Helen Morgan’s request to retire. She had worked as an Elder over the past twenty years, in her own generous and cheerful way, offering her considerable gifts to the church in faithful service.

Rev Allison warmly thanked Mrs Morgan on behalf of the Kirk Session, who wished her well in her retirement.

Mary Gordon, Session Clerk

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 Walking Group
 2.00-3.30pm - Chest, Heart and Stroke Group
 (every second week)
 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 Kurling (1st and Last of month)
 1.30-3.00pm - Get Together (2nd of month)
 5.00-6.15pm - Rainbows

Thursday

9.30am -12pm - Adult Resource Group
 1.30-4.00pm - Come and Meet Each Other (CAMEO)
 (during school term)
 6.00-8.00pm - Brownies

Friday

9.30-11.00am - Keep fit 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 10th March

10.00am All-Age Worship – Amanda Johnston
 11.00am Morning Worship – Rev Tom Gordon

Sunday 17th March

10.00am All-Age Worship – Rev Robin Allison
 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday

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

Sunday 31st March – Easter Sunday

10.00am Family Breakfast
 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 7th April

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

Sunday 14th April

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

Followed by Stated Annual Meeting

Sunday 21st April

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

Sunday 28th April

10.00am All-Age Worship – Colin Sutherland
 11.00am Morning Worship – **followed by
 Congregational Vote on Basis of Union**

Sunday 5th May

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

Sunday 12th May

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

Sunday 19th May

10.00am All-Age Worship – Rev Robin Allison
 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 26th May - Marathon Day

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

MINISTER

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TREASURER

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HALL LETS

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BEADLE

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