



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter February 2017



Humble yourself before the Lord, and he will honour you. James Ch4 v10

Dear Friends

Now that the Christmas decorations are all safely packed away and we have entered another New Year I wonder what your priorities and plans are for the next twelve months. Putting up our new 2017 calendars gives us a push to think about how we will live our lives this year. Many people make New Year Resolutions to spur them along.

One of the things that I pray, for everyone, is for a less anxious approach to life. One of the growing features in our life today is anxiety. Anxiety is produced by uncertainty and fear. In our society there has been a troubling erosion in confidence in those institutions that are meant to provide support and protection.

Then we have a world wide media network that brings us twenty-four hour news of every bad thing that happens across the world. We now hear of every disaster, even in places of the world we have never even heard of before, and every act of random violence across the world and there are many challenging threats on an international scale. Fear can pull us into a dark place that can be hard to escape.

There was a man called Jesus who came with a message of hope for us all. One of the things that he said was that we should not worry about the stuff that we cannot change (Matthew Chapter 6 verses 25 to 34). His advice was to be attentive to the good things that go on around us, to consider the flowers of the field and the birds of the air. He encouraged us to look for the good that happens all the time – to be attentive to the small and ordinary things that we so often miss.

Do we sometimes get so caught up in what is going wrong that we fail to appreciate what is going right? Each day contains so many gifts; love in a stranger's smile or a friend's kind word. Each moment gives us the chance to look around and see the wonder of this world that we are part of. This is not to say that we sit back and relax while things around us fall apart but that we should seek to balance our lives and not let our anxieties drive our daily choices or decisions.

So with God's blessing on all of us we can move into this New Year with feelings of hope and joy and peace.

Yours in Jesus

Mike

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on **Sunday 2nd April 2017**. Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 19th March**. If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on: chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com or by

phone on 819471

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Thanks are expressed to everyone for their donations to the various activities over Christmas. The amounts collected were as follows:

Christmas Card Board (in church)	£67.20
Christmas Card Delivery (in village)	£179.20
Christmas Lunch	£135.00
Christian Aid	£175.23
Toilet Twinning	£640.00
Homeless Sunday	£259.00

We are collecting Sainsbury's vouchers for craft materials and Sport Equipment for all the Children and Young People who are involved within our church. We would be grateful for any donations. Please pass on to Anne Sutherland or pop in box in church hall.

The next Candle Coffee Club meeting is on

Thursday 16th March at 10.30a.m

In Longniddry Inn.

All most welcome



Funerals

On 12th December 2016

Agnes (Nan) Adams, Aberlady

On 13th December 2016

Ian Farquhar, Cockenzie

On 30th December 2016 – Thanksgiving Service for Rev Geoffrey Underwood, former minister of Chalmers Memorial Church.

Session Section

You may have noted the intimation, sent to all churches in the Presbytery, inviting 4 people to attend a special meeting on 26th January to discuss the future of the Church of Scotland in Lothian.

As we await permission from the Presbytery to continue with our Vacancy process, the Kirk Session is taking time to look at some of the options being suggested for ministry in our area, as the Presbytery work towards having 21 full time ministers instead of the current 31.

Our church has continued to function well in our 'Vacancy' with the hard work done by our committees, able volunteers on work-teams and developing organisations, all underpinned by the support of a *part-time* ministry. Might we be able to continue into the future in this way?

The Presbytery suggests a model of one *full time* minister being appointed to larger towns - of which we would be one - but part of their responsibility would be as an Interim Moderator for neighbouring smaller churches who may have a part-time ministry. Would this be the future for our new full-time minister?

In this challenging time for the wider church, as the number of minister's declines, new ways of ministry are coming, and we are realising in the Session that we must be open to this, as the future is already unfolding.

If you have thoughts on this, do please discuss it with your fellow members of the church, and feedback your views/comments to any of the elders before our next meeting on March 9th. If you would like more information on the options open to us, don't hesitate to ask.

At our March meeting we hope to be told we can appoint our Nominating Committee, and we will decide which option for ministry we would prefer. Then - onwards with the search for our new minister.

We continue to pray for guidance of the Spirit at this challenging, but exciting, time.

Mary Gordon, Session Clerk

Can you help?

We are so thankful for the many people in our Church who do things to help keep things going, but unfortunately it tends to be the same people doing so many different jobs.

There are several different 'rotas' for things in the church from baking, cleaning, offering duties, bible reading, helping at Welcome Wednesday events, teas and much more. Perhaps you have thought 'I could help out with that'.

Due to the fact some people have had to come off some of these rotas for various reasons, it would be good if more people considered helping out to keep our church running. If there is something you feel you could help with, even one small thing, why not speak to Sheila and she will point you in the right direction. Thank you.

Thanks

Kath and James Bellany would like to thank the Church most sincerely for the beautiful flowers received following the loss of their great-nephew Ollie at Christmas time.

Barrie Johnston would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes following his recent fall and broken arm.

John Thomson would like to thank the church for the flowers received following the death of his friend Alison.

Janice Bulloch would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, cards, flowers following her recent time in hospital.

Willie MacDonald would like to thank the church for the flowers he received following his recent time of illness.

The people of Chalmers Church are delighted to offer a further *Stepping Stones* bereavement support programme for the benefit of the Chalmers congregation and the wider local community, beginning on Wed 22nd February. The *Stepping Stones*



programmes are open to all who are living with loss, not necessarily recent, and who feel they need support, encouragement and reassurance. The Chalmers *Stepping Stones* programmes - which have been running for three years now - are being looked at by several other congregations throughout Scotland, and we are delighted that other churches are learning from what we have begun here. Please talk in confidence with Tom Gordon if you need any further information by phone on 07724 916 700, or by email at steppingstones.mail@gmail.com

The next
Stepping Stones
Bereavement Support Programme
will begin on
Wednesday, 22nd February at 7pm
in the Port Seton Community Centre
and will last for six weeks.
Further information is available from
steppingstones.mail@gmail.com
or
07724 916 700

Fundraising

By now I am sure we are all aware of the financial situation our Church finds itself in. The need to increase our income and raise funds is perhaps as critical for us now as it has at any time in our recent history.

Over the past couple of years many of you have organised and run successful events, while many others of you have blessed us with your support on these occasions.

We hope during 2017 to repeat many of these events, which apart from bringing in much needed funds, have always been great fun and at which we have not only enjoyed the fellowship of friends from within the Church, but also a number of people from elsewhere in our community.

And so we are asking those of you who have in the past taken on the responsibility of organising a fundraiser, to please do it all again this year. Or perhaps you have a good idea, which you think we could try; if so please let us know.

Now, can I appeal to those of you who do not give to your Church Sunday by Sunday to consider making a regular donation? The easiest way to do this is to set up a standing order to Chalmers Memorial Church. Contact either myself, or our Treasurer Ian Bulloch, if you feel able to do this, and thank you.

In the meantime, we are certain that God will see us through the current difficulties, and your continuing prayers will encourage us.

George Smith, Stewardship Convenor
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Children and Youth News



Kids Kirk and **Youth Kirk** continue to grow and develop with lots of new faces joining us. We had a great time at Christmas learning about what happened with news from Mary, Joseph, a shepherd and a wise man. The **Youth Kirk** enjoyed a cosy night in watching Elf and eating Pizza, thanks to Bene's for the food!

As we start 2017, we look forward to the challenges and changes our children and young people face with the knowledge that each one of them is loved and accepted into our care at Chalmers. Some dates for your diary – there will be an **Easter Fun Day** on **Saturday 8th April 10am – 3.30pm**, this will be for children P1-P7. On **Sunday 9th April 6-8pm** there will be an **Easter Celebration** for the young people, P7-S3. More details on the Facebook Page. If you know a child in P1-P7 who would like to attend **Kids Kirk** on the 3rd Saturday of the month, or a young person P7-S3 who would like to come to **Youth Kirk** which meets on the Sunday following **Kids Kirk** please let us know. **Kids Kirk** runs 10am – 12noon, **Youth Kirk** runs 6-7.30pm. *Sheila Bulloch & Amanda Johnston* KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or 07980 059 974.

TRIBUTE: ELDER - IAN FARQUHAR

The church family were sorry to hear of the death of long time Elder, Ian Farquhar, after a short stay in hospital. Ian's health had not been good for a number of years, and he passed into God's care on Thursday 1st December.

Ian Farquhar was born in Edinburgh in May 1933, but spent part of his early years in Glasgow with an aunt. After his final years at school back in Edinburgh, Ian followed his in his father's footsteps and became an apprentice Cooper, being allowed to complete his apprenticeship before doing his National Service, spending some time with the Royal Scots Egypt. After this he went back to his employment as a Cooper, and after being made redundant spent some time working as a labourer at the power station in Cockenzie.

Ian had a strong faith in Jesus and while staying in Edinburgh he attended Viewforth Church and was a long time member of their Boys' Brigade Company.

On the 2nd of September 1967 Ian married Janet and they set up home in Cockenzie. Their family grew in 1969 with the birth of Christopher and in 2000 Ian welcomed Fiona into his family when she and Christopher got married and he became a very proud grandad in 2011 when grandson Nathaniel was born.

Ian attended and supported Chalmers Memorial Church for many years, appointed a deacon in November 1973, and ordained into the Eldership in December 1978. Ill health prevented his active involvement for the last few years, but he was as regular in attendance as possible, and enjoyed participating in the various social events in the church calendar - including the "Chalmers Adventurers" breaks to Harrogate and the Peak District.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts are with his wife Janet, son Christopher, daughter-in-law Fiona and grandson Nathaniel at this time, yet the hope we have in Jesus is that death is not the end but only the beginning. Now is the right time give thanks for Ian's life, as he has returned to our creator God, the God who gave him life and loved him all his days. *Mary Gordon, Session Clerk*

TRIBUTE: DEACON - NAN ADAMS - Agnes Paxton was born on 3rd of February 1929 to Tom and Agnes Paxton, the elder of two children, Margaret was born four years later. She was known to most folk as Nan, and peacefully passed into God's care on Wednesday 30th November.

When Nan was at school in Milngavie there was a boy in her class called Linkstone Adams, whose father was also a chauffeur to another family close by. Their friendship grew and years later, in September 1964 they were married in Glasgow and then set up home in Aberlady.

Nan's faith in Jesus played a big part in her life and she regularly attended and supported the Church. Nan also held various leadership roles in the Guild including President and Secretary. Every Christmas Nan would work with a Church of Scotland Deaconess to provide presents for children from one of the most deprived housing schemes in Edinburgh, encouraging the guild members to donate gifts, which would then find their way to the children. Her faith also led her to run a YWCA girls' club in Prestonpans as well as being a Deacon in Chalmers for several years.

Nan was also a very accomplished cross-stitcher and contributed to the wall hanging in the vestibule which was done in 2005 to celebrate our Centenary at Chalmers.

Rev Geoff Underwood – adapted from his Eulogy by Jayne Scott

Here in this place, Rev Geoffrey Horne Underwood (known to everyone as 'Geoff') felt at home. Here in this building he carried out his duties as minister of Word and Sacrament. His theological degree was a BD from Edinburgh University, but he always referred to his ministry and theology as a different BD – the 'Black and Decker' theology!

He was born to Lily and Harry Underwood on 6th November 1928 in Stockport, Cheshire. As a young man he was fully involved in the congregational church at which there was an active youth group. It was during this time that he met Florence Annie Redfern (known to us all as Laurie) and he knew that this energetic, feisty redhead was the one for him. Geoff and Laurie knew how to appreciate the future they could carve out together and they were married 64 years ago on 29th November 1952.

As congregational minister in Levenshulme, Manchester, Geoff and Laurie began to look to Scotland as a possible future home and so it was that Geoff transferred into the Church of Scotland ministry in 1962. After one year of attending New College and serving as an assistant in Morningside, he took up his first and only charge as a Church of Scotland minister here at Chalmers. The only break in his time as minister here was from 1968-69 when the family went on a one year exchange to Nebraska, USA. The best 28 years of Geoff's life were spent here and on his retirement he continued to be very active in the presbytery as a locum in several churches. He loved being with people and serving them as their minister. He had a natural and strong compassion for those with whom he shared the task. He always maintained that the task of a minister is first of all to love people. Believing in the best and serving with compassion was in his bones.

The original family; Jayne, Mark, Brian & Stephen now includes those who have become family through marriage: Martin, Pauline, Dhana, Zac and Clare, ten grandchildren & one great granddaughter. Geoff's life was full and as someone not afraid of death it was an ending which was consistent with his living. He heard all the love which surrounded him in his closing hours – in words, song, and touch....and all that needed to be communicated by those who have lost him was made clear.

For full Eulogy see the website or speak to Sheila Bulloch

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 (3rd 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 (1st of month)
1.30 – 3pm Indoor Curling (1st of month)
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

Rev Mike Watson will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 5th February

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

Sunday 12th February

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – George Smith
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 19th February

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship
– Take Away Treat – Tom Gordon
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 26th February

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

Sunday 5th March – 1st in Lent

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Joyce Buchanan
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

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 National 4 Group
(Aug – April)

Saturday

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

Sunday 12th March – 2nd in Lent

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

Sunday 19th March – 3rd in Lent

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship
– Take Away Treat – Amanda Johnston
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 26th March – 4th in Lent

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

Sunday 2nd April – 5th in Lent

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev Mike Watson
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 9th April – Palm Sunday

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Duncan Morgan
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

MINISTER –

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TREASURER

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FLOWER CONVENER

Mrs Lyn Marshall
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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