



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter
February 2014



Dear All,

‘It is good for me to draw near to God.’ (Psalm 73: 28)

This is the Bible verse for 2014; I hope that this year has so far been good to you. We had a good start at Chalmers with 27 children at our January Kids Kirk. One boy who goes to Kids Kirk and Holiday Club has asked to be baptised and we are going to baptise him and his little sister on 22nd June. We have four baptisms planned so far for this year and we praise God for working through us in this community.

The monthly music Session with Pamela will continue. There will be a “Kids Corner” in the church with material and people responsible for looking after any children who might come along to the 11am service. Planning is also starting for the autumn for those children who are growing out of Kids Kirk and Holiday Club and move on to secondary school. Please continue praying for all this work.

We look forward in hope to things we are – God permitting – planning to do in our church this year. We are going to have an eight week faith course “Back to basics”, starting on 25th February. The Pastoral Care Group will focus on bereavement this year and will hold an afternoon with the Rev Tom Gordon on 8th March to explore ways for the congregation to do more work in this area. Unfortunately it looks as if the Sunday School will have to stop meeting for the time being as numbers have dropped so dramatically. However, with the success of Holiday Club and Kids Kirk and the thriving of the Boys Brigade, we are able to do meaningful work with children at Chalmers, and that is what

We also have news from the Manse. Matthew will be leaving his current congregations to become General Secretary of “Action of Churches Together in Scotland” (ACTS). ACTS exists to foster good relations between churches in Scotland – seeking true Christian unity (according to Luke 17:21) rather than mere uniformity. As this is a non-parish appointment he will join Chalmers congregation and you will see him far more often on Sundays.

Matthew joins me wishing you all the very best,
God be with you,
Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

Funerals

On 13th January 2014
Archibald Thorburn Thayne,
Port Seton, 89 years old

EDITOR’S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on **Sunday 6th April 2014**. Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 23rd March 2014**. If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on: chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com or by phone on 819471
Sheila Bulloch

The next Candle Coffee Club meeting
is on **Thursday 20th March**
Meeting at 10a.m
In Longniddry Inn.
All most welcome



Afternoon Event
“Exploration of bereavement Issues”
With Rev Tom Gordon
8th March, 2pm in the Church Hall

This year the Pastoral Care Group will be focussing on bereavement. We will hold an afternoon with the Rev Tom Gordon for Elders and all who are interested to explore bereavement issues and look into ways we at Chalmers could get involved in this important work.



Kids Kirk returned in January with 32 children registered for the first session of 2014, on the day we had **27 Children** from Cockenzie and Port Seton, and also some from Prestonpans. So far the children have learned about 'Jesus has God's Power' 'Jesus can do the impossible' and 'Jesus knows what's best for us'. At the February session we are going to learning how Jesus fed 5,000 people.

We have planned Kids Kirk up till the summer, with a joint Easter Holiday Club – **Saturday 12th April.**
Future dates – 15th February, 22nd March, 17th May and 21st June – 10am – 12noon.

There are plans to have a family day in June, watch out for more information in the intimations and next newsletter!

If you would like to join the team, or know children that would like to come along please speak to myself or Amanda. The Kids Kirk contact details are - KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk
or text on 07980 059 974

Sheila Bulloch

Chalmers Memorial Church Youth and Children's Committee

Sunday morning: The Youth and Children's Committee has not met since the last church newsletter in which was mentioned the need for thought and prayer regarding the best way ahead for work with children on Sunday mornings. In advance of the early February Committee meeting, there was an informal after church meeting in December with leaders and helpers as well as some members of the Youth and Children's Committee involved. Ideas considered included the development of "busy bags" for use by young children who are present at the 11.00 am Sunday morning service. The bags would include pictures and materials for use by children and related to Bible stories. Our minister, Kristina, said that she would take to the next Kirk Session meeting thoughts being expressed regarding such as the Sunday Club and the best possible ways ahead relating to children.

Boys Brigade: In December the congregation had the privilege of sharing in a BB Dedication Service which was planned by Kristina in liaison with the BB officers. It was a heart-warming and inspiring Family Service.

Wider outreach, especially among teenagers: The need to consider our lack of impact and outreach among teenagers as a church was mentioned in the December Newsletter. This will be a major issue for consideration by the Committee at the meeting on 3 February. As previously stated, any steps forward may well require new and creative ways of thinking as well as new ways of working. Please do keep this and all the work of the committee in your prayer moves and remember that there are not likely to be quick and easy answers regarding this big challenge.

John Knox



"Back to Basics"
Tuesday, 7.30 in the Church
Starting 25th February



Our faith course "Back to Basics" starts on 25th February at 7.30pm in the church.

"Back to Basics" is a seven week course (plus a closing session in Holy Week) for teaching and reminding Christians about basic Biblical belief and behaviour. Built around seven key Biblical texts, "Back to Basics" adds stories and illustrations both from Christian history and our own day, songs and hymns old and new, discussion ideas and skills training material. The aim is to reinvigorate Christians in their understanding of God, the Gospel and their love and service of others.

The course is open and suitable for everybody – church members, people who are just getting interested or those who are coming back. We have a team of leaders and different people will prepare the sessions. We very are excited about the material we will work with. Every participant will get a course book and can choose if he/she wishes to do further study at home or not. Please speak to the Minister if you are interested in coming to give us an idea of numbers and ensure that we will have enough books.

The course is free!

Prayers

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Isaiah 55

Lord Jesus Christ, ever living head of the church, we pray for the whole company of God's people, that the Spirit will increase in us understanding and love

Give us a passion for the souls of men and women, and a desire to work for justice in the world so that all may benefit in body, mind and spirit.

Do not let our traditions or outworn methods hinder your work, but help us to be ready to share the gospel in ways that people can hear and understand.

May our church be a place where we can break down barriers and accept everyone as equally valued by you. Here may children sense they are valued and find faith. Here may young people catch a vision of the Christ life, and here may men and women discover a loving God and Father. Amen

In your prayers remember:

Our minister, Kristina and the Kirk Session

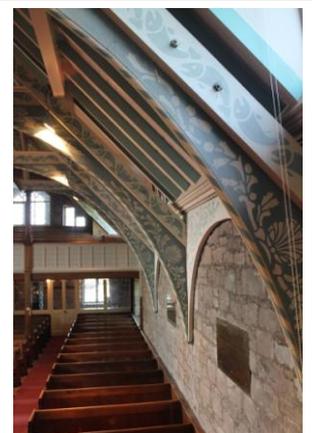
- Kids Kirk
- Syria and the Syrian Christians
- Those in our church family who are ill or in hospital
- Those who have lost loved ones, and those who are lonely
- Young people and older folk who cannot find work and for whom life holds no joy

Our Church – an explanation of the Interior Decoration and Symbolism

Around the pulpit is carved the vine. *Jesus said 'I am the true vine...without me you can do nothing'*. The person in the pulpit is nothing without Jesus Christ.

At the steps leading into the pulpit is carved on one side fishermen hauling in their net, a symbol of evangelism. On the other, a pelican plucking its own breast to feed its young, the symbol of self sacrifice necessary in true pastoral care by the minister. As the minister enters the pulpit, she passes between these two symbols.

The other photos are taken from the pulpit, so you can see what Kristina sees each week.



Photos courtesy of S HENDY Photography

Thanks

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

Nan Adams wishes to thank the congregations for the flowers and visits she has received over the past few months.

Isa Scott wishes to thank the church for the flowers received following her recent illness.

David Weaver would like to thank members of the church for kind concerns and visits during his recent post-operative convalescence.

Jim and Drena Hardie would like to thank the church for the flowers received at the end of the year, and pass on best wishes for 2014.

Audrey and Stewart Johnston would like to thank the church for the flowers received in their recent bereavement.

Thanks are expressed to everyone for their donations to the various activities over Christmas and Lothian Presbytery's Souper Sunday Project recently. The amounts were collected as follows:

Philippines Appeal	£511.40
Boys Brigade	£177.35
Christian Aid	£295.25
Christmas card Collection	£176.30
Christmas Lunch	£49.80
HIV / AIDS Souper Sunday	£250.00

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
7.30 p.m. Back to Basics Faith Course

25/2/14 – 15/04/14

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)

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)

Saturday

- 8.00 – 9.15a.m Prayer Breakfast (last of month)

OUR WORSHIP



Rev Kristina Herbold Ross will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 16th February

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

Sunday 23rd February

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Anne SUTHERLAND
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
6.15p.m. Evening Worship

Sunday 2nd March

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev John KNOX
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 9th March

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship –
Rev Kristina HERBOLD ROSS
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 16th March

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

Sunday 23rd March

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Ian BULLOCH
11.00 a.m. Family Service with Baptism

Sunday 30th March

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

Sunday 6th April

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Amanda JOHNSTON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 13th April (Palm Sunday)

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship –
Rev Kristina HERBOLD ROSS
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

MINISTER

Rev. Kristina Herbold Ross,
Braemar Villa,
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819254

minister@chalmerschurch.co.uk

(Please respect Monday as the Minister's day off)

MINISTER

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BEADLE

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Tel:

PRAYER SECRETARY

Mrs Patricia Knox
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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 'Scottish Charity'. www.chalmerschurch.co.uk