



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter January / February 2012



From the Minister:

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. (2 Cor 12: 9)

I hope you had a happy and blessed Christmas and a good start to the New Year.

The start of a new year is always exciting; something new is beginning. We have our plans and good intentions – we want to do better than in the past year.

But there is always so much to do, particularly in the church – all these people we have to reach out to, we want to tell people about the good news and are working hard to make them listen. But whatever we do, it is never enough. This can be so discouraging; one starts to doubt oneself. Somebody said to me, “I have the feeling of letting God down”. What a relief that there is our bible verse for 2012: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12: 9). God said this to St Paul, when he was in great despair, when these other “apostles” seemed to perform so much better than Paul. He was a

weak man. But he was good enough for God, and more so, God says that his power is perfect in weakness. How encouraging for us!

The year is already getting on and soon the Easter cycle will start with the season of Lent. Lent has been the main fasting season for many centuries, and Scotland was the only Protestant country which kept fasting times after the Reformation. This was perhaps mainly to protect the Scottish fishing industry, but nevertheless times set apart for setting aside things we find important and for reflection about our priorities and what we really need in life, times with *less* – and thus with *more* – can be an important sustenance in our circle of life and year.

The Lent group will be the place to share our experiences with giving up treasured things like chocolate or TV: our successes (perhaps even in weight loss) and our failures. But you don't have to be fasting to take part in the Lent Group. It will mainly be a time for studying the Bible. Over seven evenings we are going to read

Mark's passion story. The Holy Gospel according to Mark is the earliest of the four gospels with the passion story at its heart. Mark's Gospel is also called “a passion story with a long foreword”. And we will reflect our experiences and the Bible message in the light of a theme.

For the past 29 years, the Protestant Church in Germany has had a fasting campaign called “7 weeks without”. Each year it stands under a different motto and this year's motto is “7 weeks without – false ambitions”. It challenges our ambitions to create our life ourselves with topics like “Mozart in the womb”, “bilingual toddlers” and the pressure of being younger, prettier, more successful, stronger, better, etc. Our Bible account shall reassure us that we are “good enough” for God's love for his power is perfect in weakness.

With all good wishes from the Manse,

God bless,

Kristina Herbold Ross

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter.

The next issue will be available on

Sunday 11th March 2012

Articles for this edition should be with me by

Sunday 26th February 2012

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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MINISTER

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

PRAYER DIARY

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1 v. 8

Sunday: Thank you Lord, for the wonderful gospel that You have commissioned all of us to spread throughout the world. Please help each of us to respond to the promptings of Your Spirit. Grant us the courage to share our faith and Your love with people we know and any strangers we meet. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Monday: Pray for our minister and Kirk Session that they may be given wisdom and guidance in all they seek to do for the furtherance of the Gospel in our community.

Tuesday: Lord, our heavenly Father please give wisdom and insight to all Christian politicians serving in the parliaments and assemblies of Edinburgh, Belfast, Cardiff, Brussels and Westminster. May they be a godly influence in their work and relationships and ambassadors of Your grace and truth. Amen

Wednesday: Remember before God all volunteers who work so hard in running Chalmers Cafe, the Welcome Wednesday Coffee and Chat and the Family Prayer Time, pray that they may be able to reach out to those who are feeling down and need a word of encouragement and a time of Christian fellowship.

Lent Group "7 weeks without
~ false ambition"

7 weeks of abdication and bible study

Tuesdays 7.45pm in the transept

Preparatory meeting on Pancake Day,
Tuesday 21st February at 7.45pm

Thursday: Thank God for the opportunities being given to Nicola Bruce and Hazel Jamieson (S.U.) in local schools to bring a Christian prospective into everyday lessons. Pray for the Sunday School and Rock Club leaders that they may be encouraged by a regular attendance of more children. There are many children in our community - invite parents known to you to bring their children along. They are the future Church!

Friday: Rejoice and thank God for members of our Church Fellowship who in recent months have celebrated their 90th birthday (and for some who are over 90) and are still able to worship with us. We remember too those who have been bereaved and have health concerns pray that they may be upheld and strengthened in the days that lie ahead.

Saturday: At this moment in time prayer is being requested from many countries around the world where Christians are being killed and persecuted for their faith. In a Catholic Church in Nigeria just before Christmas 45 Christians died and 73 worshippers were injured and this is only one of many incidents reported from Nigeria. There are many other similar stories from Pakistan, Egypt, Uganda, Nepal, India to name but a few. Have mercy, Lord, on all today who are being persecuted for their faith. Father you know them individually, give them courage and strength and the assurance of your love and presence with them in their time of need. Amen

There will be an **Ash
Wednesday Communion
Service at 7pm** in the transept.
(Wednesday 22nd February)

All Welcome



By the time you read this, the Sunday School, and some younger members of the Rock Club, should have had their "Christmas Treat". This year, for a change, we have planned a visit to Time Twisters which is a "totally awesome" adventure play area with an Egyptian theme, so watch out for children doing the "Egyptian walk" and building pyramids!!

EVENING SERVICES

Please note that these continue on the LAST Sunday of each month at 6.15 p.m. until the end of May. They are on Sundays 29th January (Communion), 26th February, 25th March, Sunday 29th April (Communion), and 27th May.

Welcome Wednesday

As a reminder of the changes to our Welcome Wednesday Gatherings, Coffee Time meets 25th January 10am – 12noon, meeting on the LAST Wednesday of the month. The next Lunches will be on 15th February 12noon – 2pm, continuing to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Family Prayer Time is next on Wednesday 8th February 10 – 11am, meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. YOU are most welcome at any of these events in our Church Hall.

Funerals

- On 6th December 2011
James DICKSON, 78 years old, Cockenzie.
- On 30th December 2011
Agnes (Nancy) GRAY, 93 years old. Port Seton
- On 13th January 2012
Helen COCKBURN, 88 years old, Port Seton

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Church will be on Sunday 25th March in the Church after the 11am service. This will be followed by a lunch in the Church Hall.

Thanks

Christopher & Fiona Farquhar would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and generous gifts which they have received to celebrate the birth of Nathaniel on 23rd December 2011. We are all doing well and at last managing to get some sleep. We have been very touched by the generosity of spirit shown and have appreciated the prayer support given as well as the physical support offered which has made this experience a more special one.

Thanks to all who sent cards and good wishes for my 90th birthday. Thanks are expressed to the congregation for the flowers I received. Tom Watters.

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:

Christian Aid	£284.24
Christmas Lunch	£117.50
Christmas Card Collection	£211.40
HIV / AIDS Souper Sunday	£265.00



Operation Christmas Child
- Shoebox Update

Thanks are expressed to everyone who contributed to the Shoebox Appeal, 2011. We collected **130 boxes, with an additional £200 in donations.** 10,674 Shoeboxes and 40 Babushka boxes were sent off from the warehouse in December to Belarus. Thank you for your support and start collecting items for this year's appeal. More details nearer the time.

At time of printing Chris Thomson, Regional Manager - Scotland & North East England who is known to many in Port Seton, is in Belarus delivering shoeboxes to many children.

There is a Thank You evening for all who were involved the process from packing a box, driving the van to collect them across the region to helping load the lorry for Belarus. This will be in Port Seton Community Centre on Wednesday 1st February at 7p.m.

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
7.15 p.m. Prayer Time
7.45 p.m. Imagining the Bible (as advertised)

Welcome Wednesday

- 10 - 11a.m. Prayer Time (2nd of month)
12-2p.m. Lunches (3rd of month)
10a.m – 12noon Coffee Time (last of month)

Wednesday – Evening Activities

- 5:15 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

- 5:00 p.m. Rainbows }
6:30 p.m. Brownies } (Sept. - June)

Saturday

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



OUR WORSHIP

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 29th January

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship –
Rev John KNOX
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament
of **HOLY COMMUNION** (with Crèche)
6.15 p.m. Evening Worship with Sacrament of
HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 5th February

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

Sunday 12th February

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship -
Anne SUTHERLAND
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 19th February

(Sunday before Ash Wednesday)

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

Sunday 26th February (1st in Lent)

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

Sunday 4th March (2nd in Lent)

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship -
Ian BULLOCH
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 11th March (3rd in Lent)

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

MINISTER

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TREASURER

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FLOWER CONVENER

Mrs Aileen Parker
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Mrs Alice Hood
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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'.