



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter November 2013



Dear All,

‘The Kingdom of God is within you.’ (Luke 17: 21)

It is now autumn; we at Chalmers Church are starting to think about Christmas. This morning I was in Cockenzie Primary School and we set the date for the end of term school service in the church and discussed possible Christmas Carols. I am so pleased that the good cooperation between the school and the church continues under the new headmistress and am sure all at Chalmers join in wishing her all the best for her work in our community.

Audrey McLaren has started work with the Kirk Session on improving our working structure that we can work more effective for the advancement of God’s kingdom in this place. Audrey will work with the whole Session but also with conveners and office bearers as a smaller group. We have already had a working session with Audrey and the committee conveners which proved to be most encouraging. The Session Clerk and I feel it would be a good idea to form a business committee of conveners and office bearers and have regular meetings. There is also a Session morning planned for 22nd February when we will do more work on our mission statement and try to move from decisions and planning into action.

By the time you read this, there will have been the second meeting of our Kids Kirk. The first session of Kids Kirk was a huge success. We had 13 children and most of them were new to the church. There were so keen to hear the Bible stories and explore the church, sing songs about God as well as doing crafts and games that we helpers felt so blessed to be part of this new form of bringing the Gospel to the children. We also had a feast time with juice and biscuits, cheese and fruit. It was so good seeing the children having a nice meal together. The only complaint the children had was that there was not enough cheese and grapes and that there couldn’t be a Kids Kirk every week!

Our Bible verse for the month November couldn’t be more apt. ‘The Kingdom of God is within you’ or as it could also be translated ‘The Kingdom of God is among you’. The Kingdom of God is here already, it is around us, among us, within us. We don’t have to bring it in, it is here. Our role is to point it out, to give the Kingdom space, the Good News a place in our hearts and lives, and our community. To tell others about the Good News in word and deed. And,

personally, I encounter more and more openness when I speak with people. So let us hope and pray that we find the right ways to reach out to people and tell them about their God and saviour.

I would like to say a few words about the subject of visiting and pastoral care. I know that it has occasionally been said that I do not visit. Actually, I do make visits (to people both at home and in hospital) –this is an important part of my ministry. Above all, I try to make sure that all are cared for pastorally; this might be through visits, telephone calls or other means. I do rely very much on the district Elders and others who help in this important ministry. I know that the Elders and other visitors are doing a fantastic job in looking after the congregation. Together with Elizabeth Glover, I am trying to make sure that nobody falls through the net. So if you know of somebody who needs encouragement or a visit please let Elizabeth or myself or an Elder know. I feel that everybody who visits or cares for others needs looking after as well; I would still like to get a support group started as part of the Pastoral Care working group’s remit. I tried this before with the “Visitors Group” but it was not well accepted at the time. I must prioritise my visits to those in particular need, e.g. when they are in hospital, ill or dying or bereaved. I always try to go when people request a visit. Here I need your help: if you feel you would like a visit from the minister please contact me. And if you know of somebody who is sick or in hospital, please let me know *straight away*. I have no other way of finding out; hospitals no longer inform ministers when a member has been admitted. Please phone me or Elizabeth Glover. If I am not in, please leave a message. I often only hear on the Sunday and then I cannot go until Tuesday or Wednesday, by which time people might already have been in hospital for a week. So please help us to care for you and for each other better.

I hope that you have a good November and December, enjoy Advent and pray that we prepare the way for our Lord afresh, that he will find a home in our houses, our hearts and our lives when he comes.

With all good wishes,
God bless,
Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

MINISTER
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minister@chalmerschurch.co.uk
(Please respect **Monday** as the
Minister’s day off)

Superbook

Cockenzie and Port Seton Holiday Club

Saturday 30th November 10am – 3pm

An action packed day of amazing games, messy challenges, fast songs, DVD adventure series, brilliant crafts, Bible stories, and fun, fun, fun!!! The day is open to any child in P1-P7. The day costs £3. Children need to bring a packed lunch with them. For more information and to pre-register your child please contact Sheila at KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or text on 07980 059 974

Operation Christmas Child – Shoebox Sunday

24th November 2013

This year there are some changes around the shoeboxes. We still want you to fill a box with goodies for boys and girls **aged between 2-14 years**, to send to places throughout Eastern Europe. However, this year we will help by providing you with a shoebox; please speak to Amanda or Sheila for a ready-made box for you to fill. There is a nominal cost of **£1 per box** (cheaper than a pair of shoes!!) Boxes and Leaflets are now available.

Each shoebox cost £3 to send, if you can't make a shoebox, maybe you can donate £3 for the travel costs?

Boxes can be made for girls or boys within the following age ranges:

2-4 years / 5-9 years / 10-14 years.

Child Protection / PVG Checks

Christine Maclean will be contacting members of the congregation in the coming months to update those who have completed

Enhanced Disclosures, which need to be updated to PVG's.

World War Archive Project

East Lothian Council has an ongoing project where their Archive Department is aiming to record and archive all those in all the armed Services from East Lothian who took part in the first World War. The project aims to document their personal details, their service and if possible to include a photograph.

Obviously this is a huge undertaking and while they have apparently made a great start to the project, further assistance is now required from people who had relatives or friends who took part in the war.

I suspect there are quite a number of our congregation who had relatives and friends taking part and if that is the case then perhaps you could delve into your attic for any long forgotten pictures etc and send them to the East Lothian Archive Department, based at the John Fray Centre in Haddington.

This request has come via Lothian Presbytery and with Remembrance Day fast approaching and the centenary of the start of the war next year it is quite a relevant time for them to ask for assistance to help.

John Murdoch

Chalmers Memorial Church Youth and Children's Committee Updates

Kids Kirk: The first two meetings of Kids Kirk were held on Saturday 21 September and 26 October, both of which were highly successful. As well as the encouraging number of Primary School age children taking part; it has been very encouraging to see the steady development of a team of over twelve adult helpers and assistants offering their time and talents. The children evidently enjoyed the days and for the adult volunteers too it has been an enriching experience and a privilege to be involved. The meeting on 30 November will be a Holiday Club involving the other churches and dates have been agreed for Kids Kirk meetings in January, February and March. Please keep this work in your thoughts and prayers.

Sunday Family Service: The 10.15am Family Service still plays a very important part in the life of the church. Whilst it would be good to see a larger number of families and children taking part, it is enriching for both adults and children sharing in the family atmosphere of that special time of learning and informal worship.

Sunday Club: The Kirk Session agreed to change the name of the Sunday School to Sunday Club. In order to give more continuity for the children, each Sunday Club leader now leads the Club for a full month at a time but the helpers rotate on a weekly or other basis. A three month rota is operating as a trial until Christmas with Christine Baines, Lynn Marshall and Anne Sutherland as leaders. The Sunday Club Music Sundays run on a monthly basis where possible. Kristina has started holding a meeting with the Sunday Club leaders/helpers after the Sunday morning service every few weeks. She has also indicated the hope of having at least four Family Services throughout the year.

Wider outreach and especially among teenagers:

The possibility in the future of partnership with other organisations such as the YMCA, Youth for Christ or Scripture Union was discussed as was the work of twenty young teenagers who are involved as helpers in local Holiday Clubs. Caution was expressed that the success of such work should not be judged by whether or not children and teenagers are attending church services but that the significance of Bible teaching and "values" discussions that are already happening should not be underestimated. We must remain alert to development possibilities that may arise from these contacts.

Boys Brigade: The Committee, after consultation with Scotland Boys Brigade HQ, noted that Christian teaching is an essential element of BB programme and the church has a responsibility for the BB Company Christian Education. It was also noted that any church of which a BB Company is a part must nominate a Chaplain or Chaplains for that Company. The Committee asked the September Kirk Session to consider the issue of Chaplaincy and the Church's responsibility for the Christian Education of the boys.

John Knox

Thanks

Jane Innes wishes to thank everyone for all the lovely cards, flowers and kind thoughts she received in hospital. Each brought warmth and encouragement with it.

Margaret Norton wishes to thank the church for the beautiful flowers and cards given to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Robert, Shelagh and family wish to thank Rev Kristina Herbold Ross for her comforting service and support during their recent loss of their mother Mary Stewart. Thanks are also expressed for all the cards, flowers and donations towards Roodlands Hospital.

Study Leave

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross will be on study leave from Tuesday 12th until Monday 25th November, attending the conference - "How to manage change in church without destroying yourself in the process" in Perth and then having a further week for private reflection and report writing. Pastoral cover will be with Rev Robin Hill 853195.

PRAYERS

Personal prayer

In the eye of the storm, in the turning centre of the whirlpool, in the foaming water of the rapids, be my safe place, O my God. Amen.

Prayers with others

Lord, we are your people called by your name. Together we place our trust in you and bring our lives to you: our hopes and our joys, our worries and our fears, for we know that we are safely held in the circle of your love. Amen

Prayers for others

Lord, when everything is changing and some things are gone forever, you are the rock beneath our feet and the loving voice that guides us.

We pray your blessing and protection for:

- every place where there is war and especially for Syria, for those who have lost loved ones, those who are homeless, those suffering appalling injuries
- every person who has had to leave home because it wasn't safe to stay in a situation of violence or neglect
- each one who is lonely or unhappy and feels that they have no one they can turn to for help
- each one who is ill and feels worried or scared
- all who need new courage and a friend to listen to them and support them
- all who care for someone ill and need a helping hand or a friend to listen

We bring all these prayers in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen

The next Candle Coffee Club meeting is on
Thursday 12th December. This will be a Christmas Special

Meeting at 10a.m 'Longniddry Inn'.

All most welcome

CHALMERS MEMORIAL CHURCH

PORT SETON

Elder Robert Kerr

We were all sorry to learn of the death of Elder Robert Kerr who died after a short period of illness on 16 August 2013.

Robert was ordained into the Eldership in October 1989 having already served as a Deacon since August 1978.

Robert was a quiet unassuming man, completely dependable and unflappable who just got on with whatever task he was asked to do. He was always willing to help when needed and never sought praise or courted the limelight at any time for the work which he carried quietly out for the Church.

He was a District Elder, first around his home in Port Seton and when he moved to Longniddry took on the responsibility of looking after our members living in Longniddry and the surrounding area until ill health forced him to retire as an active member of the Kirk Session. Throughout his life he was a regular worshipper, even in recent times when his health was not too good.

Robert also served Lothian Presbytery for some years, taking an active part in their work which again was carried out in his quiet and unassuming way.

Until ill health prevailed Robert missed few Kirk Session Meetings and although he did not say too much at times, nevertheless, he played his part by providing all the support needed to advance God's kingdom here and in the wider area through his Presbytery work.

The Kirk Session remembers the contribution Robert made to the life of the Congregation over his lifetime and we extend our sympathies to his son and all members of the wider family at this time.

John Murdoch
25 September 2013



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)
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 10th November (NO 10.15am SERVICE)

- 10.50 a.m. Service at War Memorial
11.15 a.m. (approx.) Remembrance Service

Sunday 17th November

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

Sunday 24th November – Shoebox Sunday

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

Sunday 1st December (1st in Advent)

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

Sunday 8th December (2nd in Advent)

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

Sunday 15th December (3rd in Advent)

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

Sunday 22nd December (4th in Advent)

- 11.00 a.m. Family Service with Church Nativity and
Followed by CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTMAS LUNCH
(Please note NO 10.15am SERVICE)

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

The Christmas issue will be available on

Sunday 15th December 2013

Articles for this edition should be with me by

Sunday 1st December 2013

If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on:

chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com

Or by phone on 819471

Sheila Bulloch

Funerals

On 27th September 2013

Peter Johnston, Port Seton, 79 yrs old

On 28th September 2013

Joseph James (Joe) Thomson, Port Seton, 81 yrs old

On 3rd October 2013

Mary Stewart, Port Seton, 90 yrs old

MINISTER

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TREASURER

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FLOWER CONVENER

Mrs Aileen Parker
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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