



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Late Autumn 2014



Dear all,

My elder daughter is a nurse. She started off as an artist. She loved life drawing. The two are related. They are both about the physical body. She sees the body as a canvas and has decorated her own body with some tattoos. The one I like best is of a boat. ‘Why is that there?’ I asked. ‘Tomorrow is a sailing day, dad.’ she replied.

It’s a sign of hope, a visual reminder that there is joy in welcoming the new day and with it a new voyage for the best is yet to be! It is a deeply Christian perspective to live hopefully. And that’s where the congregation at Chalmers Memorial finds itself today with your minister away on maternity leave, looking forward expectantly to the birth of her child.

Whilst we cannot replicate the work of Kristina, the Kirk Session has appointed the Very Revd. Dr. John Cairns as your locum. He is a very experienced preacher and pastor who has made an eminent contribution to the work of the kirk both locally and nationally. He will be working on Sundays and two days during the week.

In addition, the Presbytery has appointed me as your Interim-Moderator. It is my job to oversee the life and work of the congregation on behalf of the Presbytery. I will be working with the Kirk Session, the conveners of committees and the office-bearers to ensure that the work of the kirk continues to be accomplished diligently.

John and I will work well together but we will work even better if our roles are respected. Any ministerial matters relating to the daily life of the congregation and, in particular, the worship and pastoral care of our members should be raised

with John. Any matters relating to the leadership, development and changes within the congregation should be directed to me.

I cannot say how delighted I am to be involved in some small measure with a congregation which lives by the sea. In thirty-four years of ministry none of my parishes was located by the sea. But I grew up in a fishing village in the West Highlands.

Ardrishaig sits on Loch Fyne right at the start of the Crinan Canal. I say that because lock number one is there! All of the fishing now happens in nearby Tarbert but when I was a boy there was still one fishing boat going out of our village. I have a vivid memory of it.

One day, the fishermen invited me, my brother and our mother on board and we set out to sea. I remember two things very well. The first was the hot sweet tea in a tin mug and with it the warmth of the fishermen, the camaraderie on board. It was a veritable ministry of hospitality.

The second was the name of the boat. If you were to name a boat, what would it be? I can think of no better name than the name of that little fishing boat. It was called ‘The Harmony’. And there was harmony on board, a lot of it. And in the kirk? For Jesus, the fishing boat was a pulpit and for our elder daughter it is still a sign of hope. For as they say, ‘Tomorrow will be a sailing day for you and me!’

David D. Scott

Minister at Traprain and Interim-Moderator
at Chalmers Memorial

MINISTER – On Maternity Leave

Rev. Kristina Herbold Ross,
Braemar Villa, 2 Links Road, Port Seton
819254
minister@chalmerschurch.co.uk

Interim Moderator

Rev David D Scott - revdd.scott@gmail.com

Locum Minister

Very Rev Dr John Cairns - johncairns@mail.com

Funerals

On 26th August – Jane Dickson Cairns,
formally Cockenzie, 89 years old
On 26th August - Robin Alfred Charles Owen,
Drummond NH 92 years old
On 5th September - The Rev John Knox,
Port Seton, 79 years old
On 25th September Elizabeth Moody,
Port Seton, 81 years old
Baptism
On 5th October – Lily Hope McGovern

Joint Sunday Service - 4th January 2015

There will be a Joint Service in the Old Parish Church
at 11.15 a.m. Please note there will be NO SERVICE
in Chalmers on that day.



The next Candle Coffee Club meeting is on
Thursday 11th December. (Please note change of date)
This will be a Christmas Special

Meeting at 10a.m ‘Longniddry Inn’.

All most welcome



Fairtrade 16th November

In time for Christmas,
Liz Cairns will have available a
selection of gifts and cards with
a Christmas theme from
Palcraft/Hadeel and Crafts from
Palestine. In the Church Hall
after the 11am service

PVG Checks

If you work or would like to
work with children and young
people in the Church, please
speak to Christine Maclean
about completing a PVG
form.



Kids Kirk



Kids Kirk returned for the new session in September. It was a sad day and an exciting day. We missed our team member John Knox, but welcomed new P1 children into the group. We had 15 children and several apologies from boys and girls who couldn't make the date!

This year we are working with resources by Scripture Union called **Streetwise** that takes us all a trip down Luke Street, popping into houses and meeting people visited by Jesus! The material we are using has a new song, with some funky new actions that both children and leaders are getting used to! So watch out for the song and some of the houses in and around the hall, on the 3rd weekend of the month!

Come and ask us, come and help us, but most of all pray for us as we learn, teach and have fun together sharing the good news of Jesus with the young people of our community!

God Bless, Sheila Bulloch & Amanda Johnston

Kids Kirk contact details are - KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk
or text on 07980 059 974

~~~~~

**There will be a Christmas Activity Day for children P1 – S3 on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December. More details will be in the intimations and on the website when details are finalised.**

~~~~~



It all **STARTS** with a **SEED**, a pebble a blade of grass
Just **ONE**

During the last two sessions of **YKirk** we have been exploring the fact that we can make ourselves appear in any way we want but God is the only person who knows us for who we truly are. We have also looked at what makes a church, from traditional European buildings to modern American ones which look a lot like shopping mall; from sheds in Africa to a popular scene of young people dancing in church.

These topics have allowed discussion on how **YKirk** will develop and also how young people would like to worship God.

Our next **YKirk** evening will involve the **FBI** – Forces for Biblical Investigation. An evening where the FBI will have to solve one of the many crimes of the bible and catch the criminal!

The **FBI** will meet on **Friday 14th November, 4pm – 6pm** in the coffee bar. If you know anyone in **P7- S3** who would be interested, or you yourself would like to like to become involved, please contact Gillian – Ykirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or 07736 073 960.

Look well to this day



Tom Gordon is delighted to announce that he has had a new book recently published. It's entitled *Look well to this day*, and, in the style of Tom's three books of contemporary parables, offers a short reflection for every day of a full year. Information about the book offers us the following insights:

Life is lived one day at a time. Each day brings its own challenges, and any day may need a word of guidance and reassurance. Having completed his trilogy of contemporary parables – a story for every week of the three-year Church Lectionary – Tom Gordon turns his hand, in an equally compelling, contemporary fashion, to the day-by-day nature of our living. Through stories and fables, tales of people and places, historical incidents and personal experiences, he encourages you to 'look well' to the insights and inspiration you might need. If your day is about survival, Tom's daily reflections are a reminder that you are not alone in the struggle. If you are facing something new, you will find different perspectives. And if you are simply looking for a thought to carry with you, or a meaningful illustration for a talk or a sermon, Tom offers you a rich resource. This book will encourage you to 'look well to this day' and to do so with Tom's wisdom and thoughtfulness.

Look well to this day is published by Wild Goose Publications, and is available on-line from www.ionabooks.com. The book will retail at £13.50 but can be bought at an introductory price of £11.99. It is also available at The Cornerstone Bookshop, located beneath St John's Church at the west end of Princes Street in Edinburgh. Tom will also have copies available on request.

Tom will have books on sale after the morning service on **Sunday 16th November** in the hall at coffee time, and will be happy to sign any copies.



6 things that light up the world of a child in poverty

- ✓ something to love
- ✓ something to wear
- ✓ something for personal hygiene
- ✓ something for school
- ✓ something special
- ✓ something to play with

Operations Christmas Child Shoeboxes

If you would like to purchase a pre-made shoebox they are **£1** each. Please fill and return to the 10.15am service on **Sunday 16th November**. Each shoebox cost **£3** to send, if you can't make a shoebox, maybe you can donate £3 for the travel costs? More details from Lyn or Amanda. The warehouse opens on Monday 3rd November, our boxes leave for Belarus on **Saturday 6th December**.

Thanks

Isabel Weaver would like to thank everyone for the best wishes, flowers and cards following her daft tumble!

Jane Innes wishes to thank the church for the beautiful flowers, phone calls and helpful messages she has received recently, each one has been most encouraging.

I would like to thank all the ladies who arranged tea for the family and friends after the service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for John's life. It was a huge effort and I cannot thank you enough for all you did. I will never forget your kindness to us as a family. *Patricia Knox*

Rev John Knox

At her last Kirk Session Meeting, Kristina paid tribute to the Rev. John Knox, a retired Methodist Minister and a member of our congregation who had died suddenly earlier in the week. Kristina specifically referred to his enthusiasm, leadership, ability to reach out to young people, his work for the YMCA, his ideas to develop youth work in this congregation, the support he provided to her Ministry and in summary she commented "he was a joy to work with and will be sadly missed by all here and in the wider Church."

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross & John Murdoch

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
(Hebrews 4:12)

A personal prayer - Help me each day, Lord, to say 'Yes' to you.

Prayer of Approach - Lord, 'joy is the serious business of heaven', so as we worship, help us to rejoice in your presence the taste of that joy. Remind us of your goodness to those you have called. We are redeemed by your grace, have a share in your kingdom, and are invited to feast at the banquet with you. **Amen**

Prayer of Intercession - Lord, you sent your Son, not to condemn, but to redeem, so we pray:

For all who reject your loving invitation: **turn their hearts**. For all who trust in their own self-righteousness: **open their eyes**. For any who consider themselves beyond redemption and are lost in despair: **dispel their darkness**. For those who are seeking and searching for meaning and faith: **show them the way home**. Finally, we pray for ourselves, that we may not be stumbling blocks to another's journey of faith, but rather encourage them to respond with joy to you. **Amen**

News from the Session Clerk

Fabric Convenor

Addie Johnston has decided to retire as Fabric Convenor. We thank him for all his work since he was appointed Fabric Convenor.

Fabric Update

The Kirk Session is considering how best to replace Addie in this role which is important due to the number of Fabric issues which need to be addressed. The Kirk Session is presently prioritising the work needing to be done to our buildings and is in the process of obtaining estimates and is working along with the Stewardship Group, investigating how best to finance all that needs to be done. Further information will be provided to the congregation shortly but the estimate given at the last Day of Giving, of approximately £60,000 is likely to be on the conservative side.

Committees

We need more people to take part in the various committees and if you could spare a few hours each month please consider helping out. Members are particularly required for the Fabric and Youth & Children's Committees.

Gift Aid

This year we have reclaimed over £11,000 in Gift Aid from the HMRC, an all-time record for our congregation. Hopefully we will manage to keep that up next year as that money is absolutely necessary to allow us to meet all our obligations, locally and to the wider church.

If you pay income tax and have not signed up for Gift Aid, please do and if you are not now a tax payer please let me know. (I don't want to be hauled before the Courts for claiming too much!).

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to allow us to recover the above figure. The Kirk Session is extremely grateful.

John Murdoch

Stepping Stones



A Local Bereavement Support Programme

Helping you at a difficult time

Stepping Stones

The Kirk Session of Chalmers Church is delighted with plans to offer bereavement support programmes to the Port Seton and Cockenzie communities. Tom Gordon, a member of our congregation and facilitator of the Acorns Bereavement Programmes in Edinburgh, has been working with Chalmers' folk to develop a bereavement support programme for local people. Eight of Chalmers' members have now been trained in bereavement issues, and the first of the six-week programmes will be offered in Cockenzie House weekly from **15th January to 19th February 2015 at 2pm**. Thereafter, a second programme will be offered in the evenings, beginning on **28th April 2015**.

The programmes will cover the important aspects of bereavement – our feelings around loss; health issues; looking after yourself; money matters; socialising; and thinking ahead – and will allow people to meet with others who are dealing with similar issues. They are aimed at people who are in their first year of bereavement and who are trying to make sense of what can be confusing and trying times. We've called the programmes **Stepping Stones**, as they are designed to offer people much-needed support, and to give them some confidence and reassurance as they take their first uncertain steps on the journey of bereavement. More information is on the Chalmers' website. And Tom Gordon would be happy to answer any questions on any aspect of **Stepping Stones** that you may have.

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

5 – 6 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

- 7:45p.m

8.00p.m.

1st Port Seton Rainbows (Sept. - June)

Boys Brigade –

{Anchor boys and Junior Section

{Company Section (Sept. - June)

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)

4 – 6pm YKirk (2nd Friday of month) (Sept – June)

Saturday

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

10am-12noon Kids Kirk (3rd Sat of month)

(Sept – June)



OUR WORSHIP

Sunday 2nd November

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Nicola BRUCE
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 - Very Rev Dr John CAIRNS

Sunday 9th November (NO 10.15am SERVICE)

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

Sunday 16th November – Shoebox Sunday

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship –
A walk down Luke Street Amanda JOHSTON
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship – Rev David SCOTT

Sunday 23rd November

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Ian BULLOCH
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship –
 Very Rev Dr John CAIRNS

Sunday 30th November (1st in Advent)

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Anne SUTHERLAND
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship - Ian BULLOCH
 6.15pm Evening worship, led by Tom GORDON,
 with a short celebration of Communion.

Sunday 7th December (2nd in Advent)

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Mary GORDON
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 - Very Rev Dr John CAIRNS

Sunday 14th December (3rd in Advent)

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Tom GORDON
 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 – Very Rev Dr John CAIRNS

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on **Sunday 14th December 2014**. Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 30th November 2014**. If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on:

chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com or by phone on 819471 Sheila Bulloch

Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge
and strength, a very present
help in trouble.



MINISTER

Rev. Kristina Herbold Ross
 Tel: 01875 819254

TREASURER

Mrs Janet Farquhar
 Tel: 811863

FLOWER CONVENER

Mrs Aileen Parker
 Tel: 812302

SESSION CLERK

Mr John Murdoch
 Tel: 812469

ACCESS to the HALL contact

Mr Tom Donaldson
 Tel: 812023

ORGANIST

Mrs Pamela Zenati
 Tel: 813641

HALL LETS

Miss Jean Johnston
 Tel: 810520

BEADLE

Vacancy
 Tel:

PRAYER SECRETARY

Mrs Patricia Knox
 Tel: 815423



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