



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Late Autumn 2017



Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

Dear Friends,

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. (Psalm 107:1)"

I write this letter immediately after our harvest Thanksgiving Service. The service got me thinking that there are some pretty good reasons why "thanksgiving" should be an important part of our approach to life.

Thanksgiving is one of the healthiest of all human emotions, it is said that gratitude produces more positive emotional energy than any other attitude in life. Thanking also points to something about the person offering thanks, about their character, about the way they think of others. Thanking someone puts *them* centre stage. The focus of conversation rests on *them* for that moment. Heartfelt thanks elevates *them* in the thoughts and hearts of those who are thankful. When thanks are offered to someone in front of others, it points others to *them*, to what they have done, to what we are thankful for and to who the person is.

Our Harvest Festival was an obvious time where we paused to give thanks to God, an occasion of joy and celebration reflecting on all the good things that God has given to and done for his people. This is a great time of year to focus on God's provision and His love that this demonstrates. We thank him for the blessings of life.

All the more powerful as a witness to God is our thanksgiving in the times when life is difficult. We need not be thankful for the difficult times, but thankful in them.

Being thankful to God in troubled times allows us to see past them and ultimately to use them for good. We say thank you to God when we spend time with Him, when we reach out to others, when we serve in His name, when we share our faith, when we speak of his son Jesus, when we reach out to hurting people, when we praise him from our hearts whatever season of life we are in.

Placing God as the object of our thanks - benefits ourselves, testifies to our character as Christians and most importantly places Him centre stage, elevated in the thoughts of the thankful and those who hear.

Yours in Jesus, Mike

QUIZ NIGHT
Chalmers Church Hall
Friday 10th November @ 7.30
Tickets from Tom Gordon

Come along for an exciting evening of Quiz questions - £5 per person payable at door

Bring your own team of 4 or make up a team on the night

Have fun and make friends

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on

Sunday 10th December 2017.

Articles for this edition should be with me by

Sunday 26th November 2017.

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

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Youth Kirk



Children and Youth News



Our sessions started in September with the Kids Kirk following the story of Moses and the Youth Kirk opening the doors of their detective agencies to look more deeply into the story of Joseph.

We had good numbers at both sessions despite it being the school holidays. All the children and young folk enjoyed the start of something a little bit different and were eager to find out more!

The Youth Kirk which meets on Sunday evenings following Kids Kirk, has increased greatly in numbers and for this we are very grateful to God. We currently meet in the coffee bar, however with increased numbers, we need a bit more room, so we plan to use the chapel area again. The young folk are going to help give it a lick of paint, thus making it a safe space for them to meet and build relationships while having fun and learning about the Bible.

We have been blessed over the past 5 years with Kids Kirk and now Youth Kirk and seen many young people develop into young adults. Please continue to pray for them as they choose the paths they will follow over the next months and years.

Our Christmas Holiday Club will be on Saturday 9th December 10am – 3.30pm – following in the footsteps of the greatest journey ever. This event is open to children in P1 – P7, costing £4 per child. EVERYONE is invited to join us from 2.30pm to see what we've been up to and to join in with some fun activities. More details will be posted on our Facebook Page – www.facebook.com/chalmersmemorial and on the intimations. There will be a special event for the Youth Kirk on Sunday 10th December – look out for more details nearer the time.

God Bless, Sheila Bulloch & Amanda Johnston - KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or text on 07980 059 974

Thanks

We could not let this opportunity pass, to say a great big thank-you for the cake, the flowers, the gifts, the many, many cards and of course the fantastic speech (thank you Mary) on the occasion of our 40th Wedding Anniversary. We have never felt so special! We will always remember the 3rd September 2017 with thanksgiving in our hearts. We have been so blessed to be with you in Chalmers during your time of transition. To learn, work and play. It has been amazing! And no matter how long or short the time we have left with you is, we will cherish every moment. Yours in Jesus Mike and Jacqui x

More Thanks! – What can I say to you folks at Chalmers Memorial Church that I haven't said before, but you truly are an exceptional congregation. When we talk about church families there can be no better example than yourselves. Thank you so much for all the best wishes, birthday cards and presents that you gave to me for my 60th birthday. I was truly overwhelmed by your love. I love you right back of-course! So thanks again Chalmers Memorial for making this season of celebration so special for me and Mike. Jacqui x

James & Sheila Watters would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and gifts received following their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Nanna Naples would like to say thank you very much for the lovely flowers, cards and phone calls received after her stay in hospital. She's making good progress at home now. It's nice to be remembered.

Agnes Johnston would like to say thank you for the flowers received after her recent time of ill health.

General thanks have been received from people who have received the Church flowers. They can be found on the notice board in the hall.

Manse Update

In the past few weeks much work has taken place in the manse to upgrade it to the required Presbytery standard. The exterior has been re-painted and re-pointed, while inside the walls have been insulated, a new bathroom installed, the hot water tank replaced and a new Velux window fitted in the stair well. Secondary glazing will be installed soon as will a new bathroom window and mains smoke alarms. All 21 electric sockets need to be raised above the skirting boards to comply with current regulations. By the end of October all the work that can be completed before a new family are selected will have been done. After the new Minister has been chosen, internal paintwork and some carpeting will be attended to. Painting volunteers are required and if you can help please contact me. If we can get enough volunteers we will save up to £2,000 on the overall cost.

John Murdoch

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Over the last few months members of Chalmers, the Old Church and the Methodist Church have been knitting small angels. These should appear in December, hanging around Cockenzie and Port Seton with a message on them to invite people to join any of the churches in Christmas Celebrations.

If you find one, please pass it on to someone who does not normally come to church.



Session Section

The Kirk Session last met at the end of August. It was our first meeting since the death of Ella Cunningham, and tribute was paid to her long service given to the Chalmers church. We were also advised of the death in Skye of Dorothy Davidson, whom some may remember as a former Deacon in Chalmers. A short prayer for these faithful servants and their families was led by the Interim Moderator.

Amongst the reports from our various committees, members of the Session heard that work on the manse had started. With estimates approved, work is now progressing well, with structural work completed, insulation installed, windows improved and necessary electrical work done, it is hoped that the main work will be finished by end of October, leaving redecoration to await a new minister's choice. John Murdoch and Tom Donaldson are to be much thanked for their work enabling completion of this project.

The Nominating Committee also reported on its progress, and by now regular church attenders will have noted the occasional Sunday where committee members have been absent - following up on applications received. Mr Sutherland will report further whenever it is possible. The Electoral Roll has been updated finalised and is awaiting use...

We were pleased to hear from the Treasurer that, thanks in particular to a legacy received, finances are approaching a footing whereby we can again discuss and prioritise some necessary spending - including the possibility of upgrading of our Audio-Visual system which has been causing particular concern for some months because of the faulty microphones.

We will move on through Autumn towards the year end, looking back to some real progress over the past months - not only practically, but also in some of our organisations, as you will see elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please aid our deliberations with your prayers, and may God continue to guide us all in the months ahead.

Mary Gordon, Session Clerk

Tribute to Ella Cunningham for KS meeting on 31st August 2017

Ella Cunningham was born on the 26th of May 1927 to Tommy and Isabella Graham in a house in Crown Square. Ella was very proud of having been born there and fondly recalled her childhood in what was a little village in its own right on the western edge of Cockenzie. Perhaps this is where Ella's community spirit came from, a spirit which would remain with her all of her days as she never moved out of Cockenzie and Port Seton. Ella's Dad Tommy was a great influence in her life. He was Captain of the Boy's Brigade and Ella helped to look after the Life boys. From a very early age Christianity and Chalmers Memorial Church featured prominently in her life. Ella joined the Guild in the early 50's and served as president and secretary and as convener of the Presbyterial Council for 3 years. She also served as church treasurer for many years. Without a doubt one of Ella's proudest moments was when she was ordained as an elder here at Chalmers along with her friend the late Greta Herkess. This was in 1991 when Kirk sessions were predominately male and there was a lot of resistance to women becoming elders. But Ella and Greta persevered and eventually were ordained as Chalmers first women elders. Ella was an accomplished poet and also wrote plays for the Guild to perform. There was one play she wrote called "Faith" which sadly has not survived over time but I do know that Ella's faith was absolute. She put her trust in God from an early age and throughout her life it never wavered. When visiting her, she would always say "I'm grateful for the past and look forward to what has to come". The prospect of death did not frighten her at all. Ella was a Christian not only by name but also by deed. She cared very much for those who were ill and needed pastoral visits. Through her, the John Bellany Day Centre received regular services of worship. Whenever we had a funeral at Chalmers Ella would come and meet everyone as they came in. You need a woman's touch at this time, she would say. Ella's ethos as a Christian was total giving, but the time came, because of her illness she would have to be a receiver which she acknowledged with grace and fortitude. She had many friends from the church helping her in her last days. Ella had done this for others throughout her life, not because she was an elder but because she genuinely cared. She was an example to us all as to how a Christian life should be lived. On Sunday we sang the hymn "All that I am" verse one could have been written for Ella. All that I am, All that I do, All that I'll ever have I offer now to you. Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour Lord. Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward. All that I am, All that I do, All that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

Duncan Morgan

Services and Meetings

Sunday

10:15 a.m. All-age 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 & last 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)



Sunday 22nd October

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship –
Travel down Rocky Road – Tom Gordon
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 29th October

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Ian Bulloch
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship with Sacrament
of **HOLY COMMUNION**
6.15 p.m. Evening Worship with **HOLY COMMUNION** – Rev Tom Gordon

Sunday 5th November

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

Sunday 12th November (NO 10.15am SERVICE)

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



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

10 - 10.45a.m. Stretch and Strength Exercise Class
1 – 3.30p.m. 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)

OUR WORSHIP

Rev Mike Watson will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 19th November

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Amanda Johnston
Travel down Rocky Road & Shoebox Sunday
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 26th November

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Joyce Buchanan
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
6.15 p.m. Evening Worship with **HOLY COMMUNION**
– Rev Tom Gordon

Sunday 3rd December – (1st in Advent)

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

Sunday 10th December – (2nd in Advent)

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Colin Sutherland
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 17th December - (3rd in Advent)

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

MINISTER

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TREASURER

Mr Ian Bulloch
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FLOWER CONVENER

Mrs Lyn Marshall
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HALL LETS

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BEADLE

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Mrs Patricia Knox
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Please recycle this newsletter and care for the earth as God intended