



## Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Summer 2024



"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Matthew 7: 13-14

Dear Friends,

**The Manse, June 2024**

2024 has so far turned out to be a very important year. We've seen a change of First Minister and are now in the process of a General Election campaign. Might there be a change of Prime Minister too? These are important decisions and whilst it is no place of the Church to tell people what to vote over recent days the national Church of Scotland has been publicising its own view that voting is important. It's how we express our choices. It's how we seek to control the direction of our country at a national level. And we do so knowing that what happens nationally often has an effect at a local level.

At a congregational level, we have also shared in a time of reflection leading up to the important recent vote on the Union of Chalmers Memorial Church with Cockenzie Old Parish. Congregational votes are rare in the Church of Scotland and mostly reserved for the arrival of a new Minister but also for such matters as local church unions. You will know by now that the vote both at Chalmers and the Old Parish were overwhelmingly in favour of the Union and it is up to us now to take that forward and to make what we voted for work in practical reality after the union on October 27<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Please take time to read over the short article in the newsletter regarding the recent vote and the process from here on in. Please also take time to note the altered summer pattern of worship as we share services over a more extended period with our friends from the Old Parish.

For me personally 2024 has also been significant... In February I passed 6 years as your Minister and reached my 30<sup>th</sup> year of ordination to the Ministry. I could not have known all those years ago when I began ministry in Kelty Kirk in Fife in the February of 1992 where that journey would lead me. I am glad it has led me here, to this place where Julia and I have found friendship and a home in a caring community of faith.

What an interesting year this is turning out to be and we are only in June!!! So, there is much to come... that is assured!

In the meantime, though, have a relaxing Summer...!!!

Your Friend and Minister, Robin Allison (Rev)

**Please note Rev Robin Allison is on holiday 1<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July.**

**Pastoral Cover will be provided by:**

**1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July: Rev Robin Hill (Longniddry Parish Church) 853195**

**& Rev Katherine Taylor (Tranent Parish Church) 880011**

**14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July: Rev Tom Gordon (Chalmers) 812262**

### Our Minister

**Rev Robin N Allison**

**Braemar Villa, 2 Links Road, Port  
Seton**

**01875 812225**

[rallison@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:rallison@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### Funerals since last newsletter

Betty Thompson, Port Seton, on 17<sup>th</sup> April

Etta Durham, Port Seton, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Ella Hunter, Port Seton, on 16<sup>th</sup> May

John Aldred, Port Seton, on 10<sup>th</sup> June

Cathy Rintoul, Port Seton, on 11<sup>th</sup> June

### **Date for your diary**

**- Saturday 7th  
September – in the  
afternoon - The  
Annual Sale. More  
details nearer the  
time or from  
George Smith**

### **PRAISE GATHERING 2024**

**Saturday 22 June – 2pm  
Sunday 23 June – 7pm**

**GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT HALL**

**400 VOICE PG CHOIR, BAND, YOUTH CHOIR  
and Special guest  
ALVIN SLAUGHTER**

TICKETS FROM VENUE or [praisegathering.org.uk](http://praisegathering.org.uk)





At the time of writing, the **Kids Kirk** leaders are preparing for the final session of **Streetwise**. We have focussed on a variety of houses from Luke Street over the past year. The children have explored many stories from Luke's Gospel. Please take a look at our display wall in the hall that tracks all the children have learned along the way. Our final session took place yesterday (15<sup>th</sup> June). The team are having a well-earned rest over the summer. We return on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September** with our new theme – **Adventure Cruise** where we will Cruise the high C's and meet people along the way whose lives changed course when they met Jesus.

Please contact Sheila to request further information. <https://www.facebook.com/chalmersmemorial> or text - 07980 059 974. God Bless, *Sheila, Amanda, and team*

## Thanks

*John Bellany* wishes to thank the church for the flowers and for the cards and gifts received for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Isobel Stirling* would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards and phone calls received following her accident, they were much appreciated.

*Ian Bulloch and family* would like to thank all at Chalmers for their kind thoughts, cards and calls throughout these past weeks. Above all we cannot thank you enough for your prayer support which sustained us all in difficult times. Please continue to pray for the journey ahead. Blessings on you all!

## Fabric

The weathervane/steeple and other roof repairs have been completed and we now have a perpendicular weathervane. Dynorod put a remote camera down the toilet drains and found them clear, apart from some corrosion in the pipes which could have been the cause of the blockage. Although not a problem just now we need to monitor the situation moving forward. Interestingly both toilet blockages occurred during periods of heavy rain. All outstanding electrical work has been completed as well as the hall boiler serviced, and the fire extinguishers checked.

The other large piece of work carried out was to have the glasswork on the middle east side dormer window re-puttied and hopefully this will help reduce the water running down the inside of the building in stormy weather. However, with scaffolding in place it was possible to get a close look at the window, particularly the bottom wooden window rail which was found to be completely rotten from one end to the other. This is in the process of being replaced and a delicate piece of work needs to be carried out to ensure the glass is not disturbed. Thanks are due to Platinum Property Services for their help in quickly coming up with a solution and giving it priority (Other suppliers are available).



Moving forward investigations are being carried out to try and improve access for the less able. The exit beside the ladies needs attention due to rotten wood and while it can be patched up the unit will need to be replaced soon. Some of the kitchen eaves are also in need of replacement, probably others as well. The Fabric Committee are conscious that a lot of money has been spent so far this year and quite a lot more needs to be spent but we will do what we can to get value for money. A claim has been made to the Listed Places of Worship Scheme to recover the VAT on work recently done to the Church.

Looking forward there are a number of other matters needing attention including the implications the Union will have on the building.

*John Murdoch, Fabric Convenor*

### Church Union Update – March 2024

As you will now know, the congregational vote at both Cockenzie Old Parish and Chalmers Memorial on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 was overwhelmingly in favour of Union.

The votes cast were as follows:

Old Parish For 33 Against 7

Chalmers For 71 Against 2

Accordingly, the Presbytery of Lothian and Borders are in the process of setting the formal date of the Union as **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 11am.**

The steering groups between the Churches continue to meet. We need to finalise details of items to be brought from the Old Parish Church ranging from simple kitchen items to larger items of furniture. The Old Parish congregation have a difficult and surely emotional task ahead in clearing their building ready for sale. We pray for them during this time.

At Chalmers we too have a job ahead in clearing out items around the Church building that are no longer required. Watch out for intimations regarding tidy up days!

The Steering Group will also be hosting a joint Session meeting in Mid-August in order to engage those who will be elders in the united congregation seeking their support in the various "Session Teams" that we will be setting up. All these teams will be open to members of the United congregation to join and participate in. We plan to adopt a very open policy on congregational participation in Session teams.

We must also create a basic weekly schedule for the use of the premises. We expect the halls to be extensively used after the union. Planning carefully now will allow us to be creative in our use of the space we have.

We will, as always, do our best to keep you informed of what is happening. As always too, feel free to ask questions of any of the steering group who are Lyn Marshall, Mary Gordon, Colin Sutherland and George Smith.

*Rev Robin Allison*

### Safeguarding Service

Safeguarding is a word we hear a lot about and I wondered if all of you understand what its function is within the church.

Safeguarding Services have been in place for over 20 years now - starting out as Protection of Children and changing a few years later to include vulnerable people.

The PVG scheme (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) exists to ensure anyone applying to work as a volunteer in the many different settings, but including our church, is suitably recruited for the volunteer role they wish to take up. They are required to fill out an application form, provide two references, and be interviewed for the job - just like most paid jobs are. They will also have to go through the PVG scheme, and have a police check to ensure they are suitable to be volunteers. This is particularly important to protect our children and young people but also people in our church that are vulnerable because of infirmity or disability. Sometimes after a period of illness a person can take some time to recover and get back to normal. This means that any of us could be regarded as vulnerable sometimes, but it is not a permanent state for all, and many will recover to their former selves in due course.

In our church we adhere to the guidance and regulation provided by the Safeguarding Service, complying with their policies and procedures. We have a Safeguarding coordinator and a small Safeguarding panel, which is two elders, who can be called together to meet with the coordinator if required in some circumstances. This gives a fairer representation of the church rather than leaving it all to one person. We are confident that we have in place a good system for checking people and keeping our congregation, young, old, and all in-between as safe as possible.

Please feel free to ask me about anything to do with Safeguarding and I will do my best to give you the information you need.

*Christine Maclean, Safeguarding coordinator, Chalmers Memorial Church*



**Sunday**

10:00am - All-age Worship (in Hall, led by the worship team)  
11.00am - Morning Worship

**Monday**

2.30pm - Guild (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month) (Oct-March)  
6-8.30pm - Beavers and Cubs

**Tuesday**

10.00am - Chalmers Walking Group  
2.00-3.30pm - Chest, Heart and Stroke Group  
(every second week)  
6.00-7.30pm - Brownies  
7.00pm - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)  
8.00-10pm - AA Group

**Wednesday**

10.30am - Chalmers Crafters (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month)  
10am - 12 - Coffee and Chat (Last of month)  
1.30-3.00pm - Indoor Kurling (1<sup>st</sup> and Last of month)  
1.30-3.00pm - Get Together (2<sup>nd</sup> of month)  
5.00-6.15pm - Rainbows

**Thursday**

6.00-8.00pm - Brownies

**Friday**

9.30-11.00am - Keep fit class.  
10.30am-2pm - AA Group

**Saturday**

10.00am-12 noon - Kids Kirk (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month)



**OUR WORSHIP - Rev Robin Allison will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.**

**Summer Service Schedule for 2024**

This year, the Kirk Sessions of both Chalmers Memorial and Cockenzie Old Parish have agreed to a series of joint services of worship during the Summer. Please carefully note the arrangements which are listed below:

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

10.00am All-Age Worship - George Smith  
11.00am Morning Worship

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

10.00am All-Age Worship - Colin Sutherland  
11.00am Morning Worship

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July****NO 10am SERVICE IN CHALMERS**

11.15am Joint Morning Worship in Old Parish  
- Rev Tom Gordon

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July****NO 10am SERVICE IN CHALMERS**

11.15am Joint Morning Worship in Old Parish  
- TBC

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July****NO 10am SERVICE IN CHALMERS**

11.15am Joint Morning Worship in Old Parish  
- Rev Tom Gordon

**(There are no Services in the Old Parish Church  
on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> August)**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July**

10.00am All-Age Worship - Tom Gordon  
11.00am Joint Morning Worship in Chalmers  
- Songs of Praise

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

10.00am All-Age Worship - Anne Sutherland  
11.00am Joint Morning Worship in Chalmers

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

10.00am All-Age Worship - Mary Gordon  
11.00am Joint Morning Worship in Chalmers

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August - MARATHON SUNDAY**

**10.30am** Morning Worship - Joint Service in Chalmers  
**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

10.00am All-Age Worship - Rev Robin Allison  
11.00am Morning Worship

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

10.00am All-Age Worship - Tom Gordon  
11.00am Morning Worship - Holy Communion

**MINISTER**

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[RAllison@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:RAllison@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**TREASURER**

Mr Ian Bulloch  
Tel: 852717

**FLOWER CONVENER**

Mrs Lyn Marshall  
Tel: 814265

**SESSION CLERK**

Mrs Mary Gordon  
Tel: 812262

**ACCESS to the HALL contact**

Mr Tom Donaldson  
Tel: 812023

**ORGANIST**

Mr Bob Glover  
Tel: 07790 844 474

**HALL LETS**

Colin & Anne Sutherland  
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**BEADLE**

VACANCY  
Tel:

**SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR**

Mrs Christine Maclean  
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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 (Church of Scotland) 'Scottish Charity'. [www.chalmerschurch.co.uk](http://www.chalmerschurch.co.uk)