



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Summer 2009



From the Minister:

Our Family and Youth Development Worker

Since she took up her appointment with the Tranent Cluster of churches at the beginning of April, Nicola has rapidly made her mark amongst us. Her sermon at the 11am Service made a great impact for her freshness of approach combined with some moving personal testimony. Nicola has also participated in two of our 10.15 All-age services, again bringing her own distinctive style and probably even more importantly, some new ideas. Instead of writing my regular letter in this month's issue, I have invited Nicola to write the 'leading article' as a way of telling us about what she has found in our congregation thus far and the things she hopes to encourage us to do to build for the future. Nicola has a nigh impossible job, spread as she is over the six churches in the cluster. Please remember her in your prayers.

Every Blessing for a refreshing – and warm! – Summer.
BOB

NICOLA BRUCE writes...

The General Assembly is for some exciting, for others fearful, for others entertaining. For me this year it was all 3. Though I was not a delegate this year my big brother was, thus he came to stay with us for the week – very exciting. I didn't see much of him but it's always good to get the news from "home" (Aberdeen) and chat with my niece in the mornings giving her the update on what her Daddy had for breakfast and hearing her latest thoughts on High School Musical 3. I was invited to attend the Assembly on Monday with my husband, Alastair, as all new employees of the Ministries Council,

new ministers and retiring ministers were to be introduced to the Moderator and the Assembly. Over lunch we chatted with others on some of their work in congregations, projects and research. It was indeed exciting, fearful and at times entertaining! We chatted about the Emerging Church, modern models of worship, Fresh Expressions and Church without Walls. The thing I heard most often was a growing call for the church to think creatively both in its worship and outreach.

Society is never static, but certainly in recent years we have seen changes in family patterns, weekly priorities and the place of church in society. The majority are no longer in the pews on Sunday mornings and indeed for most they do not know, they have not heard of the transforming love of God. Some may wander into a service from curiosity, a catchy poster or a burning desire within, but the reality is most see little need to darken the big wooden doors of our churches. Until they see and feel their need to worship alongside a community of believers they have little cause to join us, except maybe at Christmas.

My role as Family & Youth Development Worker for the Tranent Cluster of Churches (this means you!) is to support, advise and train in areas of family and youth work, in other words to be helpful! From my visits to Chalmers so far I think one of the most helpful things I can do is to encourage you. I have certainly been encouraged by what I have found

among you. I have encountered people who love God and would like others to know God's love for them. People who not only want this but are willing to take steps to "think creatively", take risks and dare to try something different to offer opportunities for the community it loves to encounter God and experience worship. I have been struck by a welcoming atmosphere and a great effort to make families with young children feel comfortable in a place where they often feel self-conscious and unwelcome. This takes a willingness to be flexible and adapt as members change and grow.

I have been excited to meet your committed group of fantastic folks (who are always looking for more volunteers!) working with children and young people who struggle and revel in the challenges such a task brings. Again, their creativity and flexibility is fantastic. Their willingness to change with the needs of the young people, rather than hold on to programmes, is commendable and their ideas for the future are brilliant.

You are providing various safe spaces for people of all ages to find out they are loved, they are known and they are valuable because their heavenly Father declared it and because their church family demonstrates it.

What a great job! Continue it unashamed of your church and your God. I look forward to being helpful alongside you!

Peace, Nicola

"In the morning, O Lord you hear my voice: in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation". Psalm 5 v. 5

Sunday: Gracious Heavenly Father thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of prayer. May your Spirit increasingly direct and inspire our worship, thanksgiving, confession and intercession today to the glory of Your Son. Amen.

Monday: As we come into the holiday season let us give thanks for the work done by Mr Glover the office bearers, and leaders of all organisations over the past months and pray that this break may be a time of relaxation and refreshment for them.

Tuesday: Give thanks for the fun and fellowship enjoyed over the Homecoming Weekend and pray that it may have a lasting affect on the life of the Church.

Wednesday: In these days of great turmoil in our nation pray for all those in Government that they may get down to what really matters and govern the country with integrity and wisdom.

Thursday: Pray for all in our Church family who have been bereaved recently and are now facing the summer holiday period on their own.

Friday: Remember all our young folks expecting exam results. Pray that they may be able to relax and

not be over anxious during the holiday period. Give thanks for the work done in schools by all teachers

Saturday: As we enjoy our holiday break let us continue to remember many of our brothers and sisters who are suffering great hardships in many parts of the world.

Pakistan: Some 2.5 million people in the Swat valley have fled their homes and become refugees.

Sri Lanka: Nearly 300,000 people have been displaced by recent fighting.

Zimbabwe: Life is still very difficult. Cholera cases are expected to reach 100,000 this week according to a Red Cross report. While the infection rate has slowed the underlying causes of Africa's worst cholera epidemic in 15 years have not been fixed.

Lord of all the nations, Help us to share in the lives of people in other countries, that we may learn from them and share their joys and their difficulties, so that in fellowship and trust we may reflect your care and concern, and be made more like you, to your honour and glory. Amen

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

It was our congregation's turn to send Commissioners this year. I was accompanied by our Presbytery Elder, Duncan Morgan and also Ian Bulloch, currently Moderator of Lothian Presbytery.

Press coverage has ensured that few church members can be uninformed as to the principal topics and outcomes of the debates which began at 9.30 am each morning and often lasted into the evening. (Saturday was the longest day – it began with us going for the 8 am bus and returning home just before midnight!) As I reported on Sunday 31st May, this year's Assembly could be summarised as being marked by controversy, challenge and the need for change, yet with many meaningful conversations.

The intensive seven days in May 2009 will long remain in the memory.
R.L.G.

HOME COMMUNION

Members who through illness or disability are unable to attend the forthcoming morning communion and would like communion brought to them on the afternoon of Sunday 28th June are invited to speak to their Elder in the first instance or to telephone the Minister.

Thanks

Alison, Duncan and Helen would like to express their heartfelt thanks for all the cards and flowers received during a most difficult time. The support from the Church family, through their prayer and visits has been much appreciated.

MINISTER

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

the minister and editor, as circumstances require. Letters of general thanks and acknowledgement for Church flowers will be posted on the notice board in the Church Hall.

Sunday School News

Sunday School prizegiving is on 21st June at the 11am service. The Sunday School staff wish all the children and their families a safe and happy holiday and hope to see them all back again on Sunday 23rd August at 10.15 am.

The Congregational BBQ will be held on Sunday 30th August after the 11 am service to which everyone is welcome.



Homecoming Scotland Weekend 12th – 14th June 2009 Boomerang Back to Chalmers

If you attended any of the activities over the weekend, you will know it was a fun time.

The weekend began with a flower festival in the Church and tour of the Church. The displays were fabulous and an array of colour. Tom Donaldson gave tours of the Church, sharing his architectural expertise of our Church building. On the Saturday afternoon there were various activities for all ages. Badminton Coaching and Games, Table Tennis, Air Hockey, Face Painting, Craft Making, Reminiscing and Singing. Tea, Coffee and Home Baking was served all weekend. Tom Gordon led two groups of Scottish Homecoming songs, a fun tune-fest experience, especially at the 4pm session where we had over 30 singers! The day was finished off with a BBQ, which was cooked outdoors, but eaten inside due to bad weather! On the Sunday Rev Tom Gordon led the two services, focusing on Coming Home. We then enjoyed soup and home baking in the Church Hall.

So...lots of FUN was had by ALL.

The next event will be in September, watch this space for more details nearer the time.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINES 2009

Cut out and keep in your diary.

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>AVAILABLE</u>
July/Aug	16 th August	30 th August
Harvest	27 th September	11 th October
Christmas	15 th November	29 th November

Pastoral Cover

Rev Robert SIMPSON (01875 810308) will provide emergency pastoral cover from Saturday 5th September until Sunday 20th September.

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

(Resumes 27th September)

7:30 p.m. Rock Solid Club (every 2nd week)

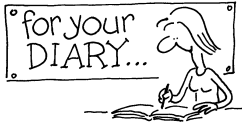
Monday

7:15 p.m. The Guild (Oct - March)

Tuesday

10.00 a.m. Chalmers Ramblers Walking Group
(every 2nd Tuesday)

7.30 p.m. Bible Study
(As advertised)



Welcome Wednesday
OUR WORSHIP

Sunday 21st June (NB No 10.15a.m Service)

11.00 a.m. All-age Family Service and Prizegiving
Amanda JOHNSTON with Rev. Bob GLOVER

Sunday 28th June. - Rev Bob GLOVER

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship.
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament of HOLY
COMMUNION (with Crèche)

Sundays in July and August. - Rev Bob GLOVER

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship –
'THE APOSTLES' TEACHING' (Acts 1-12)

Office Bearers

There will be a Meeting of the Deacons
Court followed by a Kirk Session on
Wednesday 24 June at 7p.m.

10a.m – 12noon Coffee Time (1st)
12-2p.m. Lunches (3rd)
10 - 11a.m. Prayer Time (last)
5:15 p.m. 1st Port Seton Rainbows (Sept. - June)
6:30 p.m. Boys Brigade –
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)
6:30 – 7:45 p.m Youth Club for 8-10 yr olds
8.00 – 9:15 p.m Youth Club for 11yrs +
(Meets every 2nd week Sept-June)

Double Knitting Wool Needed

If you have any spare balls of wool lying around at home, please hand them in to Elizabeth Glover or Margaret Harrison. They and many others are currently knitting hats and gloves to go into the shoeboxes this Christmas. If you would like to join in, speak to either of the ladies.

Country Dancing

Are you interested in Country Dancing? If so please speak to Christine MacLean. Day and time to be decided



Special thanks to all the collectors for this year's door-to-door collection, we raised £1,536.40.

Nicola Bruce - Family and Youth Development Worker

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FLOWER CONVENER

Miss Mary Clements
Tel: 812241

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Mr John Murdoch
Tel: 812469

ACCESS to the HALL contact

Mr Tom Donaldson
Tel: 812023

ORGANIST

Mrs Pamela Zenati
Tel: 813641

CLERK TO DEACONS COURT

Mr Ian Bulloch
Tel: 852717

BEADLE

Mr Duncan Morgan
Tel: 812071

PRAYER SECRETARY

Mrs Alice Hood
Tel: 812191



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

SC004630 Cockenzie and Port Seton: Chalmers Memorial Parish Church 'Scottish Charity'.