



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Summer 2012



From the Minister:
Dear All,

I hope this finds you well and that you are enjoying the glimpses of summer when they show themselves.

I have now been with you for nearly a year; still early times in a way. A year of settling in and finding my way round. A year to get to know each other. One might say a year of preparation for the work ahead of us. And there is an awful lot of work for us to do.

Our Sunday School has very few children. The percentage of young families attending our services is quite low. And we face enormous challenges in our community. We often feel that church doesn't play a role in people's life anymore. At our 3 Harbour Service at Port Seton Harbour the turnout was not too bad when you look at the numbers, however, those who attended were the core of super people who always support the joint services. An engagement with the community or other visitors of the arts festival, which would be the aim of such a service, did not happen.

One might draw the conclusion that people are no longer interested in Christianity but that is not the impression I get when I am out and about. The children in the school are interested and very knowledgeable – due to the teachers and the fantastic work Nicola Bruce is doing there. And the people on the street are usually open.

I learnt in the school that they are setting out to tackle obesity. About 30% of the children in our school are obese, whilst approximately 5% are malnourished. They are doing serious cooking classes with the children, besides growing their own vegetables, the community centre is offering classes on how to cook on a low budget, and the school would be very happy for us to join them in this extremely important work.

Fiona O'Donnell MP wants to start a network of Food Banks in East Lothian, for although we are slightly better off than the average of the UK, nearly 20% of our population live under the poverty line. And even middle class families can suddenly, due do benefit or pay delay or reduced income due to illness, be in the position not to have any means of buying food. And we as the church are invited to share in the work.

Jesus calls us to love and show social justice, so we must get engaged when asked for help, if not taking the lead. Furthermore in its "Vision Meeting" the Kirk Session formulated the following vision for Chalmers Church.

*We want to be a welcoming place,
Reaching out to everyone,
Especially to young people
and children,*

And we want to serve the community.

Our task for the future will be to put this vision into practice. Our Lord Jesus Christ went where the people were and engaged with them in words and actions they could relate to. And that is what we are called to do as well if we are serious in following him. Our preaching in word, music and action has to be in the language of the people we are here to serve, and it has to be relevant to them. Just to open our door is not enough. Sunday morning isn't necessarily the ideal time for families anymore, so we have to think of alternatives. And they show themselves: at the moment the wee ones come to the Coffee Morning! I am excited about our two Day Holiday Club on 6th and 7th July and there are ideas for a children's church at a different time than Sunday morning on the table. We have a new Youth Committee convener in the Rev John Knox who is already bringing in completely new and exciting ideas.

This is not about change for change's sake. Jesus calls for love and social

justice. And in order to fulfil our calling we have to adapt. In the recent Jubilee celebrations many people said that the Queen hadn't changed over the decades and that this reliability, her being there whatever might come, was the strength of the monarchy. But when you take a closer look you will see how much she and the monarchy have actually changed in order to maintain this role of continuity. It is like sailing a ship. You want to go into an eastward direction, but the manoeuvres you have to take in order to go eastward might have to change and adapt to outward conditions like the tide or wind. For the spectator it all looks the same, the ship is there, going east, but the actions on the ship might vary. And that is what we have to do as the Kirk as well. When the people we pastor are changing and the conditions in which we do Christ's work, then we have to adapt as well, in order to show that our preaching of love and social justice is still relevant and thus give a sense of tradition and continuity people can rely on.

I thank you for the confidence you as the congregation have expressed in me to lead us in this endeavour, and take the very good outcome of our Day of Giving as an affirmation of your trust in this work.

God bless,

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

PS: And sometimes it is enough just to open the door and advertise it, because the open church during the 3 Harbours Festival was a huge success!

MINISTER

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

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality. Romans 12 v. 12

PRAYER DIARY

Lord Your Word tells us to pray for those in authority. We lift to You our Scottish Government and ask for Your wisdom and discernment for them. Amen.

Sunday: Praise God for the wonderful gift of prayer, for the freedom to enter His Presence because of what Christ has accomplished and in His name to worship, thank, ask and seek His answers for people and situations that concern us.

Thursday: Pray for all charities in the Christian sector as well as voluntary organisations which benefit the public and do such wonderful work at home and abroad but at the moment are challenged financially through the economic situation. Give thanks for the amount received locally for Christian Aid.

Monday: As we have just celebrated the Queen's Jubilee let us give thanks for Elizabeth our beloved Queen who has devoted her whole life to serving her realm. Pray that in this year of Jubilee she may be granted gifts of love, joy and peace as she continues in faithful obedience to God and in devoted service to her lands and peoples throughout the Commonwealth all the days of her life.

Friday: As the Olympic Games draw near let us ask God for protection over the millions who will come to London and to other parts of the UK. Remember those responsible for the smooth running of the practicalities of the Games. Pray for wise decisions, harmonious relations and safety for all concerned.

Tuesday: Pray for the Minister and Kirk Session as they seek to work through the 'Vision for the future of Chalmers' which they worked out together on their get-together day.

Saturday: As holiday time approaches and we here enjoy the freedom and benefits of our country let us never forget to remember continually before God those who live in war-torn countries where there is no justice and freedom, where there is disease and terrible poverty that we cannot even imagine what it must be like, and where many are persecuted for their faith.

Wednesday: We give thanks for the gift of marriage. We pray your blessing upon all couples who are getting married this summer.

The next Candle Coffee Club meeting is on Thursday 21st June

Meeting at 10a.m in 'Longniddry Inn'.



The Speakers will be Rev Matthew and Rev Kristina Ross
All welcome

Thanks

Mrs Smillie would like to thank the Church for the flowers and good wishes she received following her recent operation.

Thanks are expressed to all who donated to our Day of Commitment. We raised **£4,432.42**. Well Done.

Christian Aid House to House Collection and Forth Bridge Cross - Special thank you to those who collected and thanks to everyone for their continuing support. As we go to press we don't have final totals, this will be published later.

World Mission Stamp 2012 Appeal.

This year's World Mission Stamp Appeal will raise money for a project which, for more than a decade, has helped Palestinian refugees in Southern Lebanon to 'live off the land' by teaching them agricultural skills. Last year's appeal raised £3,841 for the Mount Olivet Boys' Home in Jamaica. Thank you to all who collected stamps - please keep them coming.

Alice Hood

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|---------------------------|---|
| On 22 nd April | Baptism
Maisie McLellan |
| On 31 st March | Wedding
George Alexander Hood &
Carol Elizabeth Irving |
| On 4 th June | Funeral
William Morris, Bonnyrigg |

If you would appreciate visits from the Church or a car lift to the Sunday service or other activities - or if you know someone in this situation - please contact the minister or Elizabeth Glover and we will organise something.



Our small but faithful group of regular attendees have been busy over the last few months. We have been using some new material called "Spill the Beans" which is a lectionary based Scottish resource. The children have been enjoying craft and games which enhance the topics each week. Please spend some time enjoying their work which can be seen in the hall.

During the summer holidays, a children's activity corner will be set up in the transept for children to use during the 11 am service. If anyone would like to sit in that area to "keep an eye on the children" could you please add your name to the rota in the hall.

After many years service, some of the Sunday School staff felt it was time for a change and should step down so that younger people can take over. A very special thank you to Margaret Harrison and Loreen Courtney who have devoted many years of their time to the Sunday School. We wish them a happy "retirement"!

If YOU think you could help with the Sunday School after the summer (you do not need to commit to every week) please talk to the minister or a member of the Sunday School staff.

Finally, we wish all children a happy holiday and hope to see them all safely back after the summer.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

The next issue will be available on

Sunday 26th August 2012

Articles for this edition should be with me by

Sunday 12th August 2012

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

chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com

Or by phone on 819471

Sheila Bulloch

Holiday Club

We are running a joint Scripture Union Summer Holiday Club with the Old Kirk and the Methodist Church. Friday 6th and Saturday 7th July, 10am-3pm Chalmers Church Hall There will be a small fee and please bring a packed lunch.

For more information and registration please contact Nicola Bruce: overhills@hotmail.com, 07711223100

Cleaning Rota

We are looking for more volunteers to clean the church hall facilities. The more people we get the less you need to do it! There isn't too much involved and normally takes 2 people an hour to do it. Can YOU help? If so please speak to Sheila Bulloch for more information on what is required.



Kirk Session's "Vision Meeting"

We as the Church are facing enormous challenges and there is a lot for us 'to do'. However, reaching out to the people 'out there' to preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in a relevant way doesn't just require new ideas and projects. It might be that we will have to change our approach and consequently our actions, but we must be aware of blind actionism in order just 'to bring people in'. It is about more than this. And so the Kirk Session took a step back to focus on their role as the spiritual leaders of this congregation and develop a vision what our role as the congregation of Chalmers should be in the light of Christ's gospel of love and justice.

The Session spent a whole 8 hour working day on this, facilitated by the Rev Douglas Nicol (formerly General Secretary of the former Board of National Mission and now parish minister at Hobkirk & South Dean with Ruberslaw) and Winnie Robson (Session Clerk at Kelso: North and Ednam). It was a new way of working for the Session, including a walk through the parish to remind us of the place we serve.

This is the outcome of the day:

'Our vision for our congregation is':

- ❖ *to identify the needs of our community, engage with the people, communicate the Good News that they are loved by God their maker through word and deed.*
- ❖ *to be a welcoming Church where the Word of God is enthusiastically preached to everyone in the village.*
- ❖ *to continue being a welcoming, caring and modern Church. To increase numbers, especially in the area of young adults and children.*
- ❖ *preaching the Word, inclusive of all ages, and be willing to serve, to keep praying, keep courage, and believe the blessings will follow.*

We now have to take this forward and see how we can further realise this vision. The discussion should now be opened to the whole congregation and I, as the minister, will take the appropriate steps to do so after the summer break.

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

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)
12-2p.m. Lunches (3rd of month)
10a.m – 12noon Coffee Time (last of month)

Wednesday – Evening Activities

- 5:15 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

- 5:00 p.m. Rainbows }
6:30 p.m. Brownies } (Sept. - June)

Saturday

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



OUR WORSHIP

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 17th June – Pulpit Swap

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship
- Rev Jock & Margaret STEIN
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- Rev Jock & Margaret STEIN

Sunday 24th June

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Amanda JOHNSTON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament of
HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 1st July

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship
– Rev Kristina Herbold ROSS
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 8th July

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Nicola BRUCE
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 15th July

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

Sunday 22nd July

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Joyce BUCHANAN
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship – Rev John KNOX

Sunday 29th July

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

Sunday 5th August

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

Sunday 12th August

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship –
Rev Kristina Herbold ROSS
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 19th August

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

Sunday 26th August

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Amanda JOHNSTON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday 2nd September

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev John KNOX
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

MINISTER

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TREASURER

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ACCESS to the HALL contact

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BEADLE

Mr Duncan Morgan
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PRAYER SECRETARY

Mrs Alice Hood
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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'.