



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter May 2022



Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. Ephesians 4:15

The Manse, April 2022

Dear Friends,

When I looked back to the date of our last newsletter, I noticed that I wrote in the pastoral letter about a recent trip to York that myself and Julia had made. That was last October, and we have just returned from another short break, this time Stonehaven where Julia and her sister were taken often as children. The stay had an extra poignancy given that Julia's mother passed away not long before Christmas. So, staying there for a few nights was perhaps a return to some family memories, even though much has changed there.

Julia remembers Stonehaven before the new boardwalk that lines the promenade on the seafront, enabling people to walk the length of Stonehaven without the need to use the main road. And some places that she remembered as being shops have now been converted into homes. There are still familiar sites though. The outdoor sea water swimming pool is still there (though wasn't open when we went) and of course, the harbour is still there and looking beautifully kept.

It was while we looked out to the North Sea at Stonehaven that Julia reminded me that some five years ago, she had asked if I would ever consider moving to a parish near the sea... around a year later we were on our way to Port Seton, not quite on the sea (the Firth of Forth is impressive enough though!) and there were also not one but two harbours!

It's amazing how the roads of life intersect in the strangest of ways bringing with them profound, but often happy, experiences. Here we are, just over 4 years on, and still happy to be here. Happier too, to see things beginning to happen again at the Church as groups restart and hall usage during the week increases.

Alongside that we've shared in some pretty special acts of worship of which our Easter Service this year was one of my own personal all-time worship highlights. I have rarely been so uplifted by an act of worship, reminded again of what lies at the centre of our faith – the cross and the empty tomb.

Sometimes "*being the church*" these days seems a bit like visiting a place we used to know but which has changed over the years. Things seem to change, even when change was not intended or planned for. "*Time is an ever-rolling stream*", writes Isaac Watts in his famous hymn and yet in that same hymn he also reminds us of God's constant reliability in the past, in the present and in the future, "*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home,*"

With every blessing and best wish to you all.

Your friend and minister
Robin Allison (Rev)

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Children and Youth News

Since the last newsletter **Kids Kirk** and **Youth Kirk** met together in November for our Christmas Extravaganza. It was great being back together. In January we returned to God's Zoo in **Kids Kirk** and our **Youth Kirk** Young Detectives picked up with The Beatitudes. We have two sessions left on 21st May and 18th June. We are now running both sessions on a Saturday, **Kids Kirk** meets 10-12noon for children P1-P7 and **Youth Kirk** at 6.30-8pm, this is for young people from P7-S6. Booking can be done using our online system or by visiting the Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/chalmersmemorial>

Kids Kirk <https://form.jotform.com/220074041314338>

Youth Kirk <https://form.jotform.com/220074401037340>

For more information, please contact us - KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk or text on 07980 059 974.

God Bless, *Sheila, Amanda & Irene*

Fabric

The past few months have been spent dealing with various maintenance items at the manse, Church and hall, concentrating on trying to make the Church and hall waterproof. Contractors have replaced various slates and repointed stonework around the two windows in the Church which have caused problems for some time in stormy weather. As yet we don't know if they have been overcome as there have been no storms since the work was done!

We have two major pieces of work outstanding, fixing the weathervane and the steeple, including repainting the louvered slats and replacing/repairing the wooden framework between the Church and the hall which has seen better days with some of the wood rotten causing water to enter the building even though plenty of filler has been used to patch it up in the short term. Quotes are in the process of being obtained, but depending on whether it is replaced with a wooden structure or double-glazed units it is likely to be expensive and take quite a while, especially if Planning approvals are required.

The cooker saga continues with a supplier seemingly unwilling to supply. An alternative source has now been found and will be progressed as soon as possible.

John Murdoch, Fabric Convenor

Churches Together

Thanks to all those who helped to distribute the Joint Churches Easter card around the village. For the first time in two years, we were able to come together for worship during Holy Week, with services of reflection on Tuesday at the Old Kirk and on Good Friday at Chalmers. The Methodist Church held their distinctive Maundy Thursday service in our Church Hall rather than their own church, as this made for sufficient space to accommodate us all.

We are pleased to report that Hilda Warwick has returned to work at the Methodist Church, after a period of leave to look after her husband who, sadly, has died.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - The Community Council are organising celebrations over the weekend of Thursday 2nd June. There will be a gathering at Port Seton harbour, which will include a 10-to-15-minute act of worship conducted by the various faith groups in the village. The gathering will then process to Cockenzie Harbour.

The joint **Christian Aid Sunday** service on Sunday May 15th will take place in the Old Parish Kirk.

Our group will now continue to meet regularly, co-operating as churches here in Cockenzie and Port Seton.

Stewardship Committee

Now that things are beginning to get back to some sort of normal, we are looking forward to our activities over the next few months.

Annual Sale - The 3rd September sees the return of our Annual Sale! This will take the form, as in previous years, with the usual stalls - crafts, bakery, books, produce, bric-a-brac etc. with teas and coffees. This event has always proved popular with both Church members and others from the Community.

A Weekend of Celebration and Thanksgiving - We had begun to think about this before the pandemic put a stop to all activities. This will now go ahead on the weekend of Friday 28th & Saturday 29th October. Photos, newspaper cuttings and other items reflecting our history and ongoing work will form a display around the walls of the Hall with an overflow into the Transept if necessary. Displays will remain in place on the Sunday All the organisations which use the Hall will be encouraged to make up appropriate displays to reflect their activities. The weekend will reflect our past, present and future. We hope this event will be of interest, not only to Church members but also to the Community as a whole.

Day of Giving - We thank God for the generosity of all those who gave last year. We have decided to coincide this year's Day of Giving with the weekend of celebration, on Sunday 30th October.
More information to follow on these events.

We hope to have a concert from the Dalkeith & Monktonhall Brass Band on Friday 7th October. Watch this space!

Work in the community

We intend to make contact with Wemyss House to ascertain what we might be able to help them with, particularly as it has something of an unwarranted stigma in the village.

We also plan to meet with the Organiser and Social worker at the Community centre to set up a meeting with them, to see in which areas we may work together.

We are going to do some work to try and find out, by means of a questionnaire, which areas of the church's work our members feel they might be able to help with.

If you have any ideas in the area of Christian Stewardship you would like the committee to consider, please speak to George Smith.

Presbytery of Lothian Mission Plan

At our recent AGM, held after worship on Sunday 3rd April, I made a brief statement about the plans that are being proposed by the Presbytery of Lothian which would lead to significant ministry changes for many local congregations. This has come about primarily because the number of people offering themselves for ministry has declined and is being out paced by the number of retirements of current clergy. At the same time, the General Assembly set a cap on the number of ministers that would be in post at any one time, limiting that to 650 within the next five years. This means that within 5 years ministry numbers in our Presbytery will drop from the current 30 to 20, a drop of one third.

So how does this affect us at Chalmers Memorial? Here's a very brief summary:

- a. Chalmers would retain a full-time minister. There is no change proposed at the moment, to the current status of ministry at Chalmers.
- b. Discussions should open with the Old Parish Church about a possible union. No discussions have yet taken place, but the Chalmers Kirk Session are unanimously agreeable to such conversations.
- c. We will enter a broad parish grouping with Longniddry Parish Church. We will learn more about each other and form a supportive relationship.
- d. With Longniddry and Gladsmuir Parishes we would share responsibility for the development of a Church presence in the new Blindwells Estate. A core planning group has been formed for this.

We will endeavour to keep you informed of what is happening and invite anyone wishing to find out more to speak to their elder, Session Clerk or to myself.

Robin Allison

Funerals since last newsletter

Mr James Wilson, Forth Court, Port Seton on 23rd November 2021

Mr John Thomson, Whin Park, Cockenzie on 6th January 2022

Mr Robert Hobbs, South Seton Park, Port Seton on 9th February 2022

Mrs Agnes Johnston, South Seton Park, Port Seton on 22nd February 2022

Mrs Greta Murray, Winton Court, Port Seton on 15th March 2022

Mrs Rita Jarron, Fidra Care Home, North Berwick on 16th March 2022

Mr Robert Taylor, Seton View, Port Seton, Port Seton on 21st April 2022

Mr Arthur McCabe, Thomson Crescent, Port Seton on 25th April 2022

Sunday

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

Monday

6-8.30pm - Beavers and Cubs

Tuesday

10.00am - Chalmers Ramblers Walking Group
 6.00-7.30pm - Brownies
 7.00pm - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)
 8.00-10pm - AA Group

Wednesday

10.30am - Chalmers Crafters (1st Wednesday of month)
 1.30-3.00pm - Indoor Curling (1st and Last of month)
 1.30-3.00pm - Get Together (2nd of month)
 5.00-6.15pm - Rainbows

Thursday

6.00-8.00pm - Brownies

Friday

10.15-11am - Stretch and Strength Exercise Class
 10.30am-2pm - AA Group

Saturday

10.00am-12 noon - Kids Kirk (3rd Saturday of month)
 6.30-8.00pm - Youth Kirk (3rd Saturday of month)



OUR WORSHIP

Rev Robin Allison will conduct worship unless otherwise stated

Sunday 15th May

10.00am All-Age Worship – Colin Sutherland
11.15am Morning Worship – Joint Christian Aid Service at Old Parish Church – **please note change of time.**

**Sunday 22nd May**

10.00am All-Age Worship – Tom Gordon
 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 29th May

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

Sunday 5th June

10.00am All-Age Worship – Mary Gordon
 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 12th June

10.00am All-Age Worship – Anne Sutherland
 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 19th June

10.00am All-Age Worship – Amanda Johnston
 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 26th June

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

Sunday 3rd July

10.00am All-Age Worship – Tom Gordon
 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 10th July

10.00am All-Age Worship – Ian Bulloch
 11.00am Morning Worship – Rev Tom Gordon

Sunday 17th July

10.00am All-Age Worship – George Smith
 11.00am Morning Worship – Rev Mike Watson

Sunday 24th July

10.00am All-Age Worship – Anne Sutherland
 11.00am Morning Worship – Ian Bulloch

Sunday 31st July

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

MINISTER

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HALL LETS

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BEADLE

VACANCY
 Tel:



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