



## Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter Summer 2016



*But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children— with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. Psalm 103:17-18*

Hello everyone. Lothian Presbytery has appointed me to serve as your locum minister during the time you look for a new minister. My role will be to work two days a week in the parish and provide you with a part time ministry of word and sacrament. I will be responsible for funerals and other pastoral work plus leading worship every Sunday. My appointment began on 1 May and will end when your new minister is appointed.

You may want to know a wee bit about me so here goes! I am an Ordained Local Minister in the Church of Scotland. Throughout my life I have considered that God was calling me to some form of ministry in the church. In the mid 1980's I thought that call to be to the full time ministry. However due to family and work commitments I felt unable to follow my calling at that time. I took an active role in the church instead.

I have been a Boys' Brigade officer and for a short time Company Captain, Sunday School teacher, Bible Class leader, Youth Group leader, Alpha group leader and a member of the Congregational Board. I was ordained as a ruling elder in 1989 and for seven years was the Session Clerk at St John's and King's Park Church in Dalkeith.

In 2008 I finally answered God's call on my life to ministry and was accepted as a candidate in training for the Ordained Local Ministry. After some six years that included a year long period of enquiry, three years study with Aberdeen University, two six-month placements in Musselburgh (Northesk Parish Church and St Michael's Inveresk) and finally a twelve month probationary placement at Gorebridge Parish Church I was ordained on 5 September 2013.

Following my ordination I was appointed to the Parish of Newbattle and for some two and a bit years served the communities of Newbattle, Newtongrange, Mayfield and Easthouses. I regularly planned and led worship services including the sacraments and assisted in the pastoral care and funeral cover for the Parish.

I live in Pathhead and have been married to Jacqui for nearly thirty nine years. We have two grown up children, Neil and Rona who are both married. Jacqui and I also have two grandchildren, Eve who is nearly nine and Matthew who is six.

I had a long career in the Civil Service. I took early retirement from the Scottish Government in 2010 so that I could devote more time to my ministry and wider church life.

Jacqui and I look forward to meeting and worshipping with you and we hope we will get to know each other well. It will be a challenge to get to know everyone but I will truly do my best! Please come and speak to me (and Jacqui) if we haven't had a chat yet.

As we move forward in faith together I pray God's blessing on all of us as we continue to serve in His name.

With God's richest blessings to you and yours.

Mike Watson



### Interim Moderator

Rev Neil Dougall

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

### Locum Minister

Rev Mike Watson

Home telephone 01875 320043

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### EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2016**. Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2016**. If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on: [chalmerschurch@bopenworld.com](mailto:chalmerschurch@bopenworld.com)

or by phone on 819471

Sheila Bulloch



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**Facebook**

## Welcome by Interim Moderator

I am the minister of St Andrew Blackadder Church in North Berwick. I am also your Interim Moderator. That means I have the job of working with the Kirk Session to make sure that things keep working well until a new minister comes. Mike Watson is the face you will see week by week. My role is in the background.

This is always an uncertain time for a congregation. We wonder when we are going to get a new minister and what that minister will be like. While anxiety is understandable we need to remind ourselves that it is Jesus who gives life to the church. We depend on the Holy Spirit not on a human minister.

Chalmers is blessed with a team of able and committed elders. Together with Mike, and depending on the Holy Spirit, I expect that the congregation is not simply going to survive. It will thrive.

In due course we will form a Nominating Committee whose job it is to seek a minister. Before that can happen there are a number of things we need to do. It is important to develop a clear idea about where we believe God wants Chalmers to be going and what sort of minister will help us do that. It takes a bit of time to do this and do it well. The Kirk Session has already started this process. It is making sure that a solid foundation has been laid.

I'll keep you up to date with developments through the Newsletter. Meantime please keep praying for our church and its future.

*Neil Dougal*

**DATA PROTECTION POLICY** - The 'Presbytery of Lothian' have responsibility as Data Controller for churches under its care, and Session was reminded last year by the Presbytery that members of each congregation should have access to a Data Protection Policy which ensures they can be clear as to how any information necessary for the running of the organisation is handled, transferred or stored. The Session has now agreed a Policy - which has been drawn up from the model supplied from the Legal department of the Church offices. Each Elder has a copy, and there are now 2 copies in the Church: one on the window sill on the left when entering the church by the main door, and one hanging on the Notice Board in the Hall.

### *Main Points to Note:*

The document speaks of 'Personal Data', which for our purposes are Names, Addresses and Telephone Numbers.

Those Elders who hold names and addresses of district members are required to keep information secure by the methods defined - securely, as appropriate, on paper, or on password protected or encrypted files electronically. Transfer of information electronically for pastoral reasons is also on password protected documents.

In this modern age, one way we communicate to people out with the Church is via the Internet and the Church's Facebook page. Parents of the children in Kids Kirk have to give signed permission for the children to be included in pictures which go on Facebook.

Other photographs are taken of events in the church and these can be 'posted' online. If you would not wish to be included in any such public forum, please speak to Sheila Bulloch.

Page 4 of the Policy document would be of main interest to those who wish to check the Policy.

Members of the congregation are asked to speak to their Elder or the Session Clerk if they have any questions or concerns about Information Security.

*Mary Gordon, Session Clerk*

### **Thanks to Ella Cunningham**

Membership of the Kirk Session has changed over the past few years with Elders retiring and new Elders being Ordained or Admitted. But particular note is deserved when, after twenty-five years, Ella Cunningham retires from the Eldership.

This year the Church of Scotland celebrates 50 years of woman Elders. It took Chalmers Church twenty-five years to ordain Ella and Greta Harkess as its first lady Elders. Even then, it is fair to say that there was a degree of concern from some who were against the concept of lady Elders.

However, after the Ordinations took place, the debate was laid aside and both ladies adapted to life as an Elder and took an active part in the life of the Church.

Sadly Greta died some time ago but since the Ordinations of these two ladies, many more have brought their skills and experience to the Kirk Session and the running of the church.

Ella has Chalmers in her blood, having been connected with the Congregation for most of her life. She has always taken an interest in what is going on, particularly the Sunday School, Kids Kirk and, of course, the Boys Brigade - where the connection goes back through her father's involvement. She has been fully involved with the Guild over the years and is a former Treasurer.

Ella has always had the interests of the Church uppermost in her mind and has always taken time to give a bit of encouragement to anyone who needs it and, as a former Session Clerk, her words were always appreciated.

The Kirk Session will miss Ella's contribution but we thank her for everything she has done for this congregation over her lifetime and wish her a happy retirement.

*John Murdoch*

**Kids Kirk**



**Youth Kirk**

### Children and Youth News

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June we will have our **FAMILY FUN DAY** at 12.15pm following the Kids Kirk session. Tickets are on sale - £4 per adult (children **FREE**) Come and join us on our Adventure Cruise Ship and find out about the High Cs we have explored with the children. A fun session awaits! There will also be a BBQ.

**Shipsapes**

Ships Ahoy! - Booking is now open for our Holiday Club.  
(Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July (10am - 12.30pm))



To book a space please contact Sheila - 07980 059 974 / [KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk](mailto:KidsKirk@chalmerschurch.co.uk)

## Fundraising

In the first year of a 4 year campaign we had set a target to raise £17,500, The Year End accounts show receipts of £14,602 to the Restoration Fund and £4,933 to the Fabric Fund, a total of £19,535.

Fundraising activities in 2015 raised:

3 Harbours	£1,167.00
Tea on the lawn	£ 340.00
Sponsored Walk	£ 750.00
Ross Hamilton Concert	£ 650.00
Quiz Night	£ 300.00
Brass Band Concert	£ 275.00
Crafters	£1,700.00
Total	<b>£5,182.00</b>

The Fundraising year has got off to a great start. Bob Glover, Mary Gordon and Christina Gray's organ and song recital raised £265, Sarah Laing's tribute to Doris Day, £260 and a Bags, Beads and Scarf Sale, £424, a total of £949 and this is without further contributions from the hard working Chalmers Crafters!

The Day of Commitment on Sunday 24th April has brought in £4,055, which includes a donation of £1,200 to the restoration fund. £1,000 of this was a donation to cover the cost of renewing the flooring in the Counting Room, the Visitors Room and the adjoining corridor.

September 3<sup>rd</sup> was agreed as the date for a Late Summer Fayre, to be held in the Church Hall. There would be a number of stalls, for example Crafts, Baking, Produce, Bric-a-Brac (not "Jumble" as such), Books, Records and CD's, along with a cup of tea or coffee, with cakes/biscuits. **We need a number of individuals to come forward and take on the organising and management of a stall and there is now a notice, looking for names, on the Fund Raising notice board in the Hall.**

### STOP PRESS – Dates for your diary:

Following on from last year's success – **TEA ON THE LAWN** will be served at 2pm on the afternoon of **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July**. Tickets at £5 from Joyce Buchanan.

A Silent Auction will take place on the **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November**; more details on the Fundraising Board.

Other ideas we are progressing include: a Sponsored Walk, a Quiz night, a Musical event from Ross Hamilton

Very many thanks to all those of you who continue to support our fundraising campaign, either by your donations, by organising an event or by coming along and supporting us. We ask that you remember us in your prayers, so that we can continue our work and witness for God in this place.

*George Smith, Stewardship Convenor*

## AFTERNOON Tea on the Lawn

(CHURCH GARDENS)

WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JULY – 2-4PM

TICKETS - £5 FROM  
JOYCE BUCHANAN.  
ALL PROCEEDS TO  
STEWARDSHIP FUNDS



The next Candle Coffee Club meeting is on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June** at 10.30a.m

In Longniddry Inn.

All most welcome

## Thanks

*Drena Hardie* would like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers that she received. They were much appreciated.

*Alice, Mary & Linda Johnson* would like to thank the Church for the flowers they received following their recent family bereavement.

## Baptisms

On 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Alexander Combe

On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Ellie Stewart

## Evening Services in Chalmers



Our Interim Moderator, Rev Neil Dougall, has invited me to take responsibility for the monthly Evening Services for as long as is necessary. So there will still be an Evening Service at 6.15 on the last Sunday the month from September to May. Services are held in the Transept and last roughly half an hour.

Rev Mike Watson will lead the service on 25<sup>th</sup> September, then I'll take the services from 30<sup>th</sup> October. There will be no Evening Service in December (the last Sunday of the month is Christmas Day!)

The Sacrament of Communion will be offered at all these services and not just on "Communion Sundays". I'm going to place a book on the 'Fish Table' in the Transept in which anyone can write topics for prayer. In each Evening Service these prayer requests will be offered in our worship. Whatever is there, and whoever attends the worship, the prayers will be laid before God.

Rev Neil Dougall chose Hymn 716 as part of his praise for the first Sunday in this new period of the life of Chalmers Church. The first verse of Shirley Erena Murray's words are:

*Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,  
Find the room for hope to enter, find the space where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see  
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.*

That's what the Evening Services can offer – time to be still before God and, together, in words, music and silence, to seek His peace and blessing.

Tom Gordon

## PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, fill us with your Holy Spirit, and use us to speak the truth about yourself. Give us confidence and courage to speak the words that give you honour.

For those who are weak in faith, give them courage.

For those who search for you, give them courage.

For those who long to speak to you, give them courage.

Lord, bless us and keep up.

May Christ smile upon us and give us his grace. In his name we ask. Amen

## Christian Aid in

### Cockenzie and Port Seton

This year a few of our friends from the Old Parish Church joined us in the Forth Bridge sponsored walk for Christian Aid. I am delighted to report that between us we have raised the fantastic sum of **£1,228**. Thanks to everyone who sponsored us and for their continuing support. Throughout Christian Aid Week we began with a joint service in Cockenzie Old Parish church. We then had a street collection outside our local co-op during the week, and finished the week off with an afternoon tea/quiz on the Friday afternoon in Chalmers Memorial Church. A total sum of **£1,264.50** has been raised by the community of Cockenzie and Port Seton for Christian Aid week.

Joint service	£638.50
Street collection	£260.00
Afternoon tea	£366.00

Special thanks to everyone who supported these events, to those who gave up their time to help with the street collection and the afternoon tea, also for the generous donations of home-baking, sandwich fillers etc. received.

*Eleanor Willins on behalf of  
Christian Aid Initiative Group*

## 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)  
7-8.30pm YKirk (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> of month)  
10 - 11a.m. Prayer Time (2<sup>nd</sup> of month)  
1.30 – 3pm Get Together (2<sup>nd</sup> of month)  
12-2p.m. Lunches (3<sup>rd</sup> of month)  
10a.m – 12noon Coffee Time (last of month)



## OUR WORSHIP

**Rev Mike Watson will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.**

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – ‘Songs of Praise’ – Pamela Zenati and Band  
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship – Ian Bulloch

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June

11.00 a.m. All-Age Family Worship – *Sailing the High C's* with Amanda Johnston and others – come along to hear all about *Kids Kirk*  
**Please note NO 10.15am service**

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Ian Bulloch  
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship 11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament of **HOLY COMMUNION**

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Rev Mike Watson  
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July

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

### Wednesday – Evening Activities

5 – 6 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Cockenzie Rainbows }  
6:30 – 8 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Port Seton Brownies }  
(Sept. - June)

### Friday

1 – 3.30pm Childcare National 4 Group  
(Aug – April)

### Saturday

8.00 – 9.15a.m Prayer Breakfast (last of month)  
10am-12noon Kids Kirk (3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of month)  
(Sept – June)

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July

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

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Mary Gordon  
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Joyce Buchanan  
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August

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

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August

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

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August

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

#### **MINISTER –**

In Transition  
Tel: 01875 819254

#### **TREASURER**

Mrs Janet Farquhar  
Tel: 811863

#### **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**

Mrs Pamela Zenati  
Tel: 813641

#### **HALL LETS**

Miss Jean Johnston  
Tel: 810520

#### **BEADLE**

Vacancy  
Tel:

#### **PRAYER SECRETARY**

Mrs Patricia Knox  
Tel: 815423



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)