



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter
October 2011



From the Minister:

Dear All,

I hope that you are having a good autumn. The lovely warm weather at the end of September has come as a great boost for so many of us. I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Harvest Thanksgiving services and with all the other activities in the church.

‘Can a mortal be more righteous than God?’ (Job 4: 17)

This rhetorical question from the Book of Job is our bible verse for October. It opens up the whole question which troubled theologians like Martin Luther and led to the Reformation which started on 31st October 1517: How can we mortal sinners stand before God? Don't we have to answer this question spontaneously with 'Not at all!'

We tend to call our Lord Jesus Christ our brother. Jesus himself calls everybody who does God's will, his brother; sister and mother (Mark 3: 35). However, this doesn't mean that there is even the slightest similarity between God's Son and us – we are made in God's image but are not *like* God. God is and remains, as the theologians John Calvin and Karl Barth describe, always the Other One.

Jesus calls those who do God's will his brothers and sister, but we know that no-one *always* follows God's will, which can easily be identified in the Ten Commandments and what Jesus describes as the most important commandments, i.e. to love God and our neighbour as ourselves (Mark 12: 29-31).

So from Eliphaz, Job's friend, who criticises Job for his arguing with

God and tries to put Job right with our verse, Job cannot expect much comfort in his desperation.

Our only salvation can lie in God himself, who makes himself righteous to us when we can't be righteous before him and who became our brother whilst we cannot reach being his brothers and sisters.

It is in God's nature that none of us sinners can be righteous before him, because he is God, but as he is God his nature is love, all merciful, all understanding, and all forgiving. There, in God's love which surpasses all human understanding, lies Job's comfort – and ours.

With all good wishes for October, God bless,

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

The next issue will be available on

Sunday 27th November 2011

Articles for this edition should be with me by

Sunday 13th November 2011

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

on: **chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com**

Or by phone on 819471

Sheila Bulloch

MINISTER

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

On 18th September

Baptism

Maisie HAY, Lossiemouth

On 23rd September

Funeral

Robert BROWN, 72 years old, Port Seton

Planning for Christmas? Why not

come along to a cream tea and coffee

afternoon to be held by the Guild in the

Church Hall on Saturday 29th

October at 2 p.m. when there will be an

opportunity to buy Christmas Cards

from various charities.

PRAYER NOTES

Sunday: Lord of the Church as we prepare to meet together help us truly to worship You with grateful hearts and to rejoice in the knowledge that we are all part of your worldwide family drawn together from every tongue and generation.

Create within us a desire to respond to the crying needs of our brothers and sisters in many areas of the world struggling against poverty, war, injustices and natural disasters.

Monday: Uphold in our prayers the Guild in the Church and nationwide as they begin their winter session. Remember in prayer Alison Twaddle (retired General Secretary) who is undergoing another stem cell treatment.

Tuesday: Pray for our Minister and Office Bearers that they may know God's guidance as they plan ahead for the winter session.

Wednesday: Give thanks for all the work done by the folks who run the Lunch Club, Coffee morning and prayer group on Wednesdays. Pray that they may be encouraged and many may be blessed as they meet together.

Thursday: Remember in prayer the older members of our Church fellowship who are housebound or in care - and not only in prayer but to visit them so that they may not feel cut off or neglected.

Friday: As youth organisations start up again for the winter session bring before God our concerns for young people in our community. Give thanks for the Rainbows and Brownies and Boys Brigade meeting in the Church Hall. Pray earnestly about the lack of children in the Sunday School and Rock Solid Club, and that parents may feel the need to bring their children under the sound of the Gospel.

Saturday: At this time there are many pressing needs around the world. As we reflect on these situations we cannot begin to understand or feel what many peoples in the world have to go through - yet **God is there** and **He has promised** that when we call **He does answer**. There will be many instances where miracles do happen that we never hear about. So take time - go through the news - **pray believing that He will answer!**

Presbytery of Lothian twinning with Diocese of Eastern Himalaya

(Excerpt from September Twinning Newsletter from Hugh Trevor)

The most pressing news is that of a recent severe earthquake in the area of our twinned churches in India. The epicentre of the earthquake was in North Sikkim that is further north than Gangtok. There has been extensive damage to many homes and buildings, water-pipelines. Two of the four pinnacles at the top of the tower of MacFarlane Memorial Church have collapsed and there is also damage to the interior of the church, making it unsafe for use. The present monsoon rains are adding to their difficulties. Our prayers and thoughts will be with them.

Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Sunday - 20th November 2011

It's that time again; time to buy items to go into your shoebox, time to dust off those empty shoeboxes, pack them with great little gifts, and send them to children in need. Time to get the knitting needles out to make some hats, scarves, gloves, socks.....you knit it, we'll take it!! This year OCC are looking for Sports-Themed Shoeboxes. The 2012 London Olympics is only just around the corner, so they've decided to get into the Olympic spirit as part of this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign. How? Through sports-themed shoeboxes, of course! As well as giving you the chance to do something a bit different with your shoeboxes, this is also your chance to send a few sporty items out to needy children in our world - children who might otherwise not have the chance to experience the joy of sport for themselves.

Boxes can be made for girls or boys within the following age ranges:

2 - 4years / 5 - 9years / 10 - 14years.

Leaflets will be available from Amanda Johnston from Sunday 9th October.



Thanks

A big 'thank you' to everyone who donated gifts of foodstuffs etc. at the Harvest Festival. Everything was greatly appreciated by the Edinburgh City Mission who uses them in their "Basics Bank" Project.

Unitary Constitution – an update

Although it was decided at the 2009 Annual Business Meeting to change the Constitution and to adopt the Unitary Constitution as recommended by the Church's Solicitors it took a few months to get Presbytery approval by which time we were very much in the Vacancy. Rather than set up the Committee structure at that point the Kirk Session has until now dealt with everything that the former Deacons Court handled.

However, now that we have a new Minister, the Kirk Session agreed at its last Meeting to move forward and the following Committees have been set up, Fabric, Finance, Worship, Pastoral Care, Youth and Outreach. Over the coming weeks each of the Committees will meet and agree their own Convenor. The Kirk Session also decided that a Convenor should serve for a period of three years with the option of a further period.

This system is more flexible than what we have had in the past and members of the Congregation will be invited to join the Committees where additional expertise is needed. Each Committee has its own Terms of Reference and will report to the Kirk Session.

It is likely the new system of management will take some time to settle down but if you are asked to join one of the Committees please give it your serious consideration.

John Murdoch, Session Clerk

Kirk Session Meetings

Please note change of dates/day from last newsletter.

Wednesday 23.11.11 at 7pm

Wednesday 08.02.12 at 7pm

Sunday 18.03.12: after 11am service to approve accounts

Sunday 25.03.12: after 11am service Annual Stated Meeting

Wednesday 09.05.12 at 7pm

Wednesday 20.06.12 at 7pm

Fabric Convenor

After serving as Fabric Convenor for more than thirty years Tom Donaldson has decided to retire as our Fabric Convenor. Tom has looked after our buildings exceptionally well over that time and it is down to his expertise that they are in such a good condition. We should all thank Tom for all his hard work over the many years and for the time he has spent looking after the Church, hall and manse.

However, Tom's expertise and knowledge will not be completely lost to the Fabric Committee as he has decided to remain on the Committee and help out when needed.

Addie Johnston has agreed to replace Tom as Fabric Convenor and will work along with son John, Barry and Jean Johnston.

We wish Addie and the team all the best as they start their new roles and thank Tom for everything he has done as our Fabric Convenor.

John Murdoch, Session Clerk

*Seaside Productions, Preston Lodge's extra-curricular film club, has been working hard since January on its new film: a documentary called *John Bellany: a childhood by the sea*. We were lucky enough to interview John Bellany CBE, RA, HRSA in his Edinburgh home for our last film, *PL Homecoming*, which celebrated the school's 85th birthday. That interview has led to this new film where Bellany reminisces about his time at Preston Lodge High School, and discusses the impact his roots in Port Seton have had on his art. He talks, in particular, about his painting, 'The Box Meeting: Cockenzie', and remembers the box meeting itself. The film also includes interviews with locals Archie Johnston, Alistair Hamilton and Tom Donaldson. The film will be shown for the first time in public on Tuesday 25th October at 7.30pm, Longniddry Parish Church, Elcho Road, Longniddry. The film will also be available to purchase on the night. Hope to see you there. Louise Marr, The Film Club Co-ordinator can be contacted at lmarr@prestonlodge.elcschool.org.uk for further details.*

Church Website –

<http://www.chalmerschurch.co.uk>

Have you visited our fabulous website recently? Why not have a browse through it to find out what is happening in the Church and some historical information. I am often asked how many people visit the site, so here are a few statistics you may find interesting from our September report.

- 1st – 30th September 681 people visited our site, averaging at 21 visits a day.
- The most used search engine to find our site was www.google.co.uk.
- 553 visitors were from North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa and South America.
- 553 visitors were from 21 countries, USA was the highest with 281 visits, UK 137 finally 1 visit from Luxembourg, South Africa, Ukraine, Nigeria, Denmark and Chile.

As you can see it's not just in the UK people find us! If you would like to see the full report, just ask!

Sheila Bulloch

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

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

- 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 –
- 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 16th October

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

Sunday 23rd October

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

Sunday 30th October

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship
– Rev Tom GORDON
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sacrament of
HOLY COMMUNION (with Crèche)
6.15 p.m. Evening Worship - followed by a brief
celebration of **HOLY COMMUNION**

Sunday 6th November

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

Sunday 13th November

(N.B. **No 10.15 a.m. Service** this Sunday)

- 10.50 a.m. Service at War Memorial
11.15 a.m. (approx.)
Remembrance Service with Cockenzie & Port
Seton Royal British Legion in attendance and
Musselburgh & Fisherrow Trades Band

Sunday 20th November – Shoebox Sunday

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

Sunday 27th November (1st in Advent)

- 10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship
– Ian BULLOCH
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship
6.15p.m. Evening Worship

Sunday 4th December (2nd in Advent)

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

MINISTER

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TREASURER

Mrs Janet Farquhar
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FLOWER CONVENER

Mrs Aileen Parker
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SESSION CLERK

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ACCESS to the HALL contact

Mr Tom Donaldson
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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'.