



Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter November 2021



But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

The Manse, November 2021

Dear Friends,

I've never eaten Chinese spareribs in a 700-year-old building before (and that's not a sentence you'll be able to find in many Church newsletters!) but that's exactly what I did in a recent return visit to York. York is a very special place to Julia and I as it was where we honeymooned nearly 30 years ago. We've been back several times since then, latterly with our children. This time around it was just the two of us again, back to explore the winding cobbled streets lined with buildings that seem to defy gravity by standing even when they look so shoogly!

The 700-year-old building I mentioned is located just a stones throw from York's impressive Minster, on the city's Goodramgate where you will find a row of some of the oldest buildings in York that claim a history that dates back all the way to 1316. One of them, the "Happy Valley", is now a Chinese restaurant. The Spareribs are excellent... in fact, the whole meal was lovely.

However, to get to the point, on a plaque outside the restaurant, you can read the following words – *"Our Lady's Row, Goodramgate – the oldest surviving row of houses in York built in 1316 in the Churchyard of Holy Trinity to endow a "chantry" of the Blessed Virgin Mary"*.

The Church to which those words refer, *"Holy Trinity"*, is apparently hidden behind this row of ancient dwelling places. We didn't even know it was there. It was dark at the time but, apparently, 700 years ago, the leaders of that church decided to build a small row of houses from which Artisans would work. The income gained from this would help maintain their building as well as provide a source of funding to the maintenance of a special altar inside it (otherwise known as a *"Chantry"*) dedicated in honour of the Virgin Mary.

The question of how places of worship generate income to keep going is not, therefore, a new one. Many congregations have, down the years, developed a whole range of imaginative ideas to keep their finances stable.

What is interesting in York's Goodramgate, was the decision to build these artisan houses in such a way that it left their building – their place of worship – almost completely hidden from sight, something that was not lost on a later generation when, in 1827 (so the story goes) some locals sought to demolish the ancient houses so that the Church building could be seen! They lost their appeal and so the houses still stand to this day.

And what about *"Holy Trinity Church"*? Sadly, it closed for worship in 1971 and yet, it survived all those years – hidden yet still there, unseen by passers-by but still a place of worship and praise, enclosed by the world around it yet, even now for those who choose to look it out, acting as a sign to the presence of the faith it was built to celebrate.

I am sure there is a lesson in their somewhere if we look hard enough.

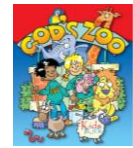
God's people, hidden and sheltered by the world, shining a light of worship and praise from within the enclosed spaces around us. Ever has it been and maybe that's supposed to be the way Christ's Church is called to witness – from the inside out, from the enclosed spaces to the streets beyond...

Something to ponder...

Your friend and minister
Robin Allison (Rev)

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Children and Youth News

February 2020 The last time our **Kids Kirk** and **Youth Kirk** met together face to face. So much has happened since then - our country went into lockdown and we still live with some of the pandemic restrictions. Sheila has been unwell and we have lost one of our feast team, Dorothy who died in November 2020. We have been unable to meet, but have had virtual activities instead. We are working with the Church of Scotland's guidelines so that WE CAN GET BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!!

We are running a special one-day **Christmas Extravaganza** event for both **Kids** and **Youth Kirk**. **Saturday 27th November 2021** - **Kids Kirk** will meet 10am - 12noon, open to any child in P1 - P7. In the evening, there will be an event for **Youth Kirk** for anyone from P7 - S6, from 6.30 - 8pm. Pre booking will be essential for both events so that we can ensure we have correct ratios and meet the guidelines. Booking can be done via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/chalmersmemorial>

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

God Bless, Sheila, Amanda & Irene

Cockenzie and Port Seton Churches Together

On Remembrance Sunday November 14th, Marilyn Steele will lead worship at the War Memorial at 11am with the official party attending the Old Parish Church afterwards, subject to any Covid restrictions.

Stewardship

We are hoping to have a Stewardship Month, perhaps in March 2022, when services and activities during that month will be concentrated on various aspects of Christian Stewardship. As part of this we will hold a Weekend of Celebration marking the history of our Church. We already have a considerable number of photos and documents from James and Alice Hood, which will be displayed. We believe there are others who could make similar contributions, as well as the other organisations associated with the Church. If you have any photographs, documents, or newspaper cuttings that we can use please let us know.

One of the aspects of Christian Stewardship is "Time and Talents." There are many skills and talents represented among our people, some of which we may not be aware of. We are therefore considering a "skills audit" to improve that awareness and see how we make better use of those talents.

We are not able to hold a Christmas Day lunch this year but hope to do so in 2022.

George Smith

Thanks

Mrs Maggie Ross would like to say thank you for all the lovely cards, good wishes, and flowers she received following her move into Crookston Care Home.

Nessie Craig would like to say thanks for the cards and flowers she received for her 90th Birthday.

A big thank you from the *Sailors Society* to everyone who was busy knitting during lockdown. We have donated 94 hats and 24 other items, including scarves, neck-warmers, and fingerless gloves. The society is always happy to accept more hats and scarves at any time. More information from Christine Baines - 811583

National Day of Giving - our final total was **£8,615** an amazing amount. We thank God for the generosity of our members and friends for such a magnificent result. 10% of this will go to Crossreach, the Church of Scotland's charity for social care and specialist services.





Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

6.30 p.m. Family Service

11.30 p.m. Watchnight Service

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)

11.00 a.m. Short Family Service



Appeal for Milk Bottle Tops and Used Stamps This session "Lothian East Guilds Together" are collecting milk bottle tops of ALL COLOURS to be turned into coverings for fiberoptic cables and the money raised goes to help various cancer charities.

Used stamps are being collected by 'Crossreach' - the Social Care Arm of the Church of Scotland - as part of their fundraising.

Bottle Tops and Stamps can be dropped off at the Church.



Session Section

Our regular meeting in August was timely as government Covid regulations relaxed. A small group was given powers to keep track of 'rules' and 'advice' from the Church of Scotland. Signage will reflect these. Since September we ring our bell again to declare our worship is in progress, our Early Service is resumed, and our Bible is again given its place at the start of the 11am service. What a joy!

As other work continues, a special meeting was held to discuss the re-opening of our halls for more general use. Agreements around maintaining hygiene are all approved with each User, and cleaning materials are in place. Confidence grows as we progress towards an amended 'normality'.

More recently, Presbytery representatives met with us regarding local plans for change under the *Presbytery Mission Plan*, mentioned in our last Newsletter. These envisage two major aspects of change for us here:

1. one full time ministry covering Cockenzie and Port Seton, based in Chalmers Church building, and
2. a parish grouping – one Cockenzie and Port Seton Church working closer with one ministry covering Longniddry and Gladsmuir, with a combined remit to create church links with the new Blindwells community and an eventual church presence there.

Soundings are being taken from all churches as to how these visions could be achieved. At our meeting a wide-ranging discussion ended:

1. declaring an openness to have a discussion with Cockenzie Old Parish about a possible union, noting the emotional and practical difficulties which would apply, when creating – in essence - one *new congregation* to care for our whole community.
2. agreeing to set up a small group to meet with a similar small group from Longniddry Parish regarding Blindwells, giving specific focus to a relationship which was already beginning to form with this neighbouring parish through the former Tranent Cluster.

After the challenge to reach an 'amended normality' resulting from Covid, our next will be to create a new normality for *all* our churches moving forward, as we must...

Mary Gordon, Session Clerk

Funerals

Mrs Janet Kerr, Links Road, Port Seton, 23rd June 2021 at Inveresk Cemetery

Mrs Florence Wilson, c/o Drumohr Care Home, Wallyford, 4th August 2021 at Seafeld Crematorium



**CHURCH
DIARY**

Sunday

10:00a.m. All-age Worship (in Hall)
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Tuesday

10.00 a.m. Chalmers Ramblers Walking Group
6-7.30 p.m. 1st Cockenzie Rainbows (Sept. - June)
7.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting (on zoom)

Wednesday

10.30 a.m. Chalmers Crafters (1st Wednesday of month)
5- 6 .15p.m. 2nd Cockenzie Rainbows (Sept. - June)

Thursday

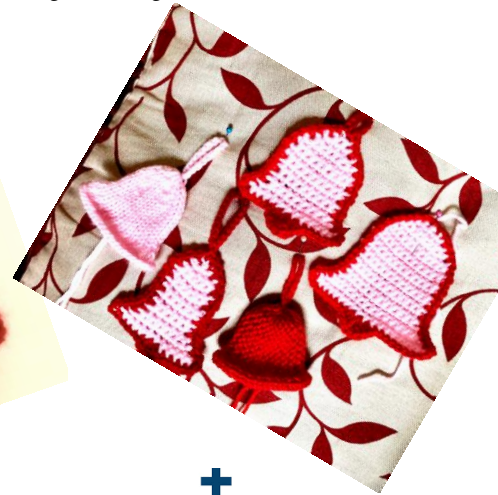
6:30 – 8 p.m. 2nd Port Seton Brownies
(Sept. - June)

Friday

10 - 11a.m. Stretch and Strength Exercise Class

Christmas Bells

Our Crafting Team have been busy knitting and crocheting Christmas Bells. Look out for them nearer Christmas.



OUR WORSHIP

Rev Robin Allison will conduct worship unless otherwise stated

Sunday 14th November (NO 10am SERVICE)

11.20 a.m. (approx.)
Remembrance Sunday Worship

Sunday 21st November

10.00am All-Age Worship – George Smith
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 28th November – 1st in Advent

10.00am All-Age Worship – Tom Gordon
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 5th December – 2nd in Advent

10.00am All-Age Worship – Anne Sutherland
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship with Sacrament of **HOLY COMMUNION.**

Sunday 12th December – 3rd in Advent

10.00am All-Age Worship – Mary Gordon
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 19th December – 4th in Advent

10.00am All-Age Worship – Amanda Johnston
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Please see page 3 for Christmas Services

Sunday 26th December – (NO 10am SERVICE)

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Service in 2022

Sunday 2nd January (NO 10am SERVICE)

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – Ian Bulloch

Sunday 9th January

10.00am All-Age Worship – Colin Sutherland
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 16th January

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

MINISTER

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TREASURER

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FLOWER CONVENER

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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