



## Chalmers Memorial Church Newsletter

### Summer 2015



*It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name (Psalm 92 v1)*

Dear Friends at Chalmers,

#### **GREAT WAS THE COMPANY OF THE PREACHERS**

Recently, the Kirk Session was discussing questions raised by the Presbytery's Forward Planning Coordinating Group. One of them asked whether the congregation could function well without a minister. *'We're almost doing that now!'* said one of the elders. I hadn't thought about that!

With your minister off on maternity leave, you are working with a locum who does one of the two Sunday services and two days' pastoral work. In addition, you have me as interim-moderator. Whilst there is ministerial input, it is minimal. The rest is done by elders and members of the congregation.

Perhaps if ministers were free to concentrate on key areas like preaching, the sacraments, areas of pastoral care and religious ordinances, there could be a more minimalist approach adopted? We are going to need to think more collaboratively if the shortage of ministers continues.

At this year's General Assembly, the Ministries Council launched its ten year initiative to recruit more and younger people to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. It began with the screening of a six minute video called, 'Tomorrow's Calling'. The video was well made and appealing. It featured four young ministers who were clearly committed, engaged and engaging, enriching the life of their parishes and building bridges in challenging situations. It communicated well.

However, the most surprising thing about the video was that everything which the ministers were doing could have been done by people who had not been ordained to this particular office. Somehow the video-makers had missed the essence of this distinctive ministry!

The Ministry of Word and Sacrament is primarily a preaching office in which the preacher in pulpit and out of pulpit is engaging with the people about how God relates to their lives today. But the video showed nothing of this theological engagement in worship, Bible Study, baptismal visiting, wedding preparation and so on. All distinctive elements of our calling.

The Kirk has lost confidence in preaching and this is regrettable. For when I read about the death of Elizabeth Templeton, Scottish theologian and erstwhile lecturer at New College, I immediately remembered the day she came to preach at the University Chapel in St. Andrews. As a late teenager, I was mesmerized.

The Chaplain, Mike Urch, had invited the students to meet Elizabeth and discuss the sermon in his manse. I have never forgotten the excitement the preacher generated in the importance of questions and the rigorous search for truth. This was preaching at its memorable best.

When you remember that the church came to birth not only with the Spirit's wind and fire but with Peter's sparkling sermon and its opening illustration and text, you realise just how important preaching has been. This was repeated in the Scottish Reformation and at other significant times in the Church's long history.

It makes you wonder why we do not value it more. Is it the quality of preaching, the people's indifference or the uneventful times? It's amazing to think that the preacher in that University Chapel was only in her late twenties! But the memory of Elizabeth's vibrant and searching sermon on the dying fig tree lives on and its fruit still nourishes.

*David D. Scott, Interim-Moderator*

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I am writing this from the Orkney Islands where I am part of a team working out how to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Jutland which falls next May. We are here because the British Grand Fleet was based in Scapa Flow at the time and many of the casualties are buried in the Naval Cemetery at Lyness on the island of Hoy. We are a mixed team of civil servants from the Department of Culture Media and Sport, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Scottish Government, Royal Navy Officers, officials of the Orkney Islands Council, the Lord Lieutenant of Orkney and little me - quite a mixed bag!

The strange thing is that, although each one has pretty strong views and their own particular interest in mind, we are all sharing the same basic desire of making the event truly appropriate to the occasion, do justice to all those who were involved in the battle and in particular be worthy of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Is there some similarity here with how we should all approach our thinking about church and our commitment to it.

Our local churches, such as Chalmers Memorial, are set in the base that is our home community and they contain memories and memorials of those who faithfully served and worshiped in times past so we centre our worship here. We too have an absolute priority to remember him who paid the ultimate sacrifice for us and all mankind, Jesus, our saviour, brother and inspiration. We have a willingness to submerge our own individual self interests and personal choices to positively engage with each other and produce something worthy of our calling to serve others and worship God. At least that is how it should be and you know - it often is!

Summer holidays will soon be upon us so Liz and I wish you all a relaxing and refreshing time and some warmer weather!

*John Cairns*

The Church now has a Facebook page. Please log onto – <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chalmers-Church-Port-Seton/827105730677468?ref=hl> for more information and 'Like' our page



#### **MINISTER – On Maternity Leave**

Rev. Kristina Herbold Ross,  
Braemar Villa, 2 Links Road, Port Seton  
819254

[minister@chalmerschurch.co.uk](mailto:minister@chalmerschurch.co.uk)

#### **Interim Moderator**

Rev David D Scott - [revdd.scott@gmail.com](mailto:revdd.scott@gmail.com)

#### **Locum Minister**

Very Rev Dr John Cairns - [johncairns@mail.com](mailto:johncairns@mail.com)



On **Saturday 20<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 walk along Luke Street, visiting all the houses the children have been to. A fun session awaits! There will also be a BBQ.



Booking is now open for our Holiday Club.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July (10am – 12.30pm).**

Our theme for the summer will be Polar Explorers.

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

**Welcome Wednesday Chalmers Cafe**

Due to the Holiday Club, **Chalmers Café** will now meet on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 12-2pm.

### Statement to Congregation – 10 May 2015

Do you know where you were on 16 August 1991?

Well, I was at a Kirk Session Meeting when I was asked if I would take on the role of Session Clerk and with some persuasion I agreed.

Nearly 24 years later I have decided the time has come to step down and I have advised the Kirk Session that I will do so on 31 July 2015. Originally it was my intention to stand down when Bob Glover retired but on reflection I decided it would not be fair for a new Session Clerk to be faced with a Vacancy, so I decided to continue, initially until the end of the Vacancy and then into the new Ministry.

I will be meeting David Scott, our Interim Moderator, to discuss the situation next week and hopefully he and others will then start the process of finding a nominee or indeed nominees for consideration at the next or subsequent Kirk Session Meeting.

I do not intend to take any part in finding my successor, I will leave that to the Kirk Session but if required I will give the new Session Clerk all the assistance and support needed.

It has been an interesting and at times challenging 24 years. No doubt I will miss the role but I believe the time has now come to retire to the back benches and, as defeated politicians say, spend more time with the family.

*John Murdoch*

### Funerals

- On 8<sup>th</sup> April  
■ Anne Hildersley, Port Seton, Aged 76 years
- On 30<sup>th</sup> April  
■ Graham Bellany, Port Seton, Aged 57 years
- On 8<sup>th</sup> May  
■ Annie Buchanan Johnstone, Port Seton, Aged 77 years

### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the Church Newsletter. The next issue will be available on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015**. Articles for this edition should be with me by **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2015**. If you would like to E-Mail news you can contact me on: [chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com](mailto:chalmerschurch@btopenworld.com) or by phone on 819471  
*Sheila Bulloch*

### Data Protection

Data Protection has been employing the minds of the Legal team within 121 George Street and Lothian Presbytery in recent months. Basically we have been informed that we need to contact all members and adherents advising them of their legal rights under Data Protection legislation where details are recorded electronically or indeed manually.

We only record details of each member and adherent electronically on the Communion Roll and the District List documents. The content of each document is a list of names and addresses of all our Members and Adherents. However, the Communion Roll also includes the FWO envelope number or a "B/O" where people contribute in either of these ways. The latter information is only available to the Session Clerk as Roll Keeper and the FWO Convenor. Although that information is contained in these documents it is possible to print them for use without the financial data being made available to anyone else.

In addition, an electronic list is provided to HMRC when the Gift Aid Claim is made every six months. HMRC will not now accept Gift Aid claims manually, so we have no option other than to use their on-line system.

We are advised that everyone has the legal option not to have their name included on an electronic or, indeed, a manual list, which, if anyone opted out would make it well-nigh impossible to maintain any form of record. We did ask the Presbytery Clerk how we should maintain records in the event of someone asking for their name to be removed from any of our records but so far silence has reigned.

Presbytery has instructed Kirk Sessions to bring this matter to the attention of all attached to each congregation and, hopefully, everyone connected to our congregation will be satisfied with the procedures in place, that we maintain the utmost confidentiality and that we do not abuse any data held. However, if anyone wishes their name removed from either the Communion Roll or District List document for Data Protection reasons please contact me.

*John Murdoch, Session Clerk*

### Elder retirement

James Hood has decided to retire from the Kirk Session after more than 50 years service. We thank James for all his work and commitment to the congregation over all these years and wish him well in his retirement.

**The school END OF TERM service will take place in the church on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 9am.  
All welcome.**

*News from Tranent Church of Scotland Family & Youth Development Workers (March 2015):*  
*Psalms 78:4 "...we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done."*

It has been a busy few months as always! Nicola returned to work part-time at the beginning of November and Debbie, who covered Tranent groups over Nicola's maternity leave, stayed on as her job share partner. This has been a joyful team! Some highlights have been getting stuck into class work and assemblies in Prestonpans with Prestongrange's new minister Rev. Kenneth Donald, the Christmas Holiday Club days and training events for planning this year's holiday clubs across the cluster, ongoing Messy Churches, the weekly Awesome S.U. groups in Windygoul and Church Club in Elphinstone and supporting various groups, services, school's work and community engagement around the cluster and of course team meetings with the new minister in Tranent Rev. Erica Wishart are always a hoot!

The happy news from Nicola is that her husband Ali has accepted a Call to be minister of Ellon Parish Church in Aberdeenshire. The sad news is that it's too far a commute for Nicola! So Ali, Nicola and James are heading North in April. Nicola's first day in post was the 1<sup>st</sup> April and 6 years to the day will be her last. It has been a tremendous roller coaster these last 6 years but the highlights of the post revolve around the people involved. It is a privilege to walk alongside volunteers, colleagues, young people, children and families as they journey through faith and life. It is an honour to be a part of their lives and a joy for them to become a part of ours. The church has always been a place of family, friendship, food, fun and fellowship with each other and our Great Big God. In our work we see this continue. When we gather for holiday club that's church. When we gather for messy church crafts and food that's church. When we comfort a struggling family and pray for and with them that's church. When we check in with a young person to see how they got on in an interview that's church. When we gather on a lunchtime and share God's stories and play that's church. Whether it's on a Sunday, a Wednesday, a Thursday, a Saturday, a term time, a holiday its church. And it's great!

We've had the joy of welcoming pupils from local schools into the church buildings in Prestongrange and Tranent recently and helped them explore the building, but not just the building also the people and the God we worship, for church is not a building, it is the people who gather who are the church. What we find in these encounters is new and deepened relationships, questions answered and pondered, awe and wonder, and a welcome into a community, not into a building.

As the work with families and young people increases so does the need for more folk to get involved. None of it can happen without a team of vast and varied volunteers. Is there a place in that team for you? Yes! We need people who will work with children, people who can make juice or cut up apples, pray, do craft projects, carry things for setting up events...all sorts of people! To volunteer in this ongoing exciting work be it once a week or once a year just get in touch. And from Nicola, a big thank you for your love, support and partnership in the gospel these past years. It has been and continues to be wonderful, so get involved! Give it a go!

*Psalms 78 v6-7 "so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands."*

Nicola Bruce & Debbie Middlemass -  
tranentholidayclub@gmail.com

## Stewardship Group – Fundraising

At the presentation made after the Stated Annual Meeting we announced our plans for raising funds for the Restoration Fund.

We now need people to take on the organisation and management of these. Can you organise one (or more if you feel so inclined)?

Here is a list of the projects we have in mind so far:  
Coffee Mornings. Sponsored Walks. Quizzes. Film Nights. Silent Auctions. Concerts. Odd jobs. Garage Sales. Recipe Book. Songs of Praise. Beetle Drive. Merchandise.

You may have another idea that is not on the list and that you would be prepared to organise. If so, why not add it, together with your name, to the list you will find on the FUND RAISING notice board in the Church Hall?

There are some projects under way. The Craft Group have been very busy and are already making money! Their products have been on sale after Sunday worship and during the Three Harbours Festival. If you would like to join this group, please talk to Elizabeth Glover or Cathy Smith.

On Wednesday 1st July you will be able to take Afternoon Tea on the lawn; you can get your tickets at just £5 from Joyce Buchanan

Later in the year we are planning an organ recital in the Church.

In the meantime we will keep you posted of what is coming up and you can keep up to date by watching the FUND RAISING Notice board in the Church Hall.

*George Smith*

## PRAYERS

**Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Psalm 90 VS2 & 4**

O Lord, Scripture says "There is a time for silence and a time for speech" Lord, teach me the silence of humility, the silence of wisdom, the silence of love, the silence of perfection, the silence that speaks without words, the silence of faith.

Lord teach me to silence my own heart that I may listen to the gentle movement of the Holy Spirit within me and sense the depths which are of God.

*(Source unknown, 16<sup>th</sup> century)*

## Thanks

*Drena Hardie, Margaret Norton & Irene Thomson* would like to thank the church for the flowers they have received recently.

Thank you to all who came along to support the recent Jumble Sale for the *Lothian Autistic Society* in the Church Hall, we raised **£291.17**.

Thanks are expressed to all who donated to our Day of Commitment. We raised **£4,449.20**. Well Done.

*Willie McDonald* would like to thank the church for the flowers received following his recent illness.

*Addie Johnston* would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and kind words following the death of Cousin Ann.

## 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

## Welcome Wednesday

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**

**Very Rev Dr John Cairns will conduct worship unless otherwise stated.**

### 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 Intermediate 1 Group  
(Aug – April)  
4 – 6pm YKirk (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month) (Sept – June)

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> June**

10.15 a.m. All-Age Worship – Mary GORDON  
11.00 a.m. Traditional Worship - Rev Jim RIACH

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

11.00 a.m. All-Age Family Worship - Rev Jim RIACH  
(Please note NO 10.15am Service)

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

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

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

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

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

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

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

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

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

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

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

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

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August**

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

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August**

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



The next Candle Coffee Club meeting  
is on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

Meeting at **10.30a.m** in  
'Longniddry Inn'.

The Speaker will be Philip Hacking,  
organist at St Michaels, Inveresk  
All welcome

#### **MINISTER- On Leave**

Rev. Kristina Herbold Ross  
Tel: 01875 819254

#### **TREASURER**

Mrs Janet Farquhar  
Tel: 811863

#### **FLOWER CONVENER**

Mrs Lyn Marshall  
Tel: 814265

#### **SESSION CLERK**

Mr John Murdoch  
Tel: 812469

#### **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)