

Your Parish



Newsletter



Autumn 2026

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Dear Friends,

The Manse, September 2026

As I write this letter, I am preparing our Harvest Service which will have passed by the time you receive this newsletter. The Harvest Service is one of the most traditional annual events in the life of most congregations, a time for giving thanks for the Harvest – both what is grown in the fields and brought in from the seas.

This year we are supporting the work of our local Port Seton Pantry which operates out of the Port Seton Centre, a place where folk who need such support can go for short term help with food supplies. It's a tangible way for us to show our concern for people within our own community and, from the feedback we have received in the past, much appreciated too.

At the heart of our Harvest celebrations, however, is a simpler and more fundamental belief – not just about the necessity of sharing with others what we have but also about the God who has given us what we have in the first place!

That's why this year the bible passage I chose to speak about was from Psalm 104 – one of the so called "*Creation Psalms*" in which the Psalmist recognises the extent of God's care for the earth.

Psalm 104 v1 – "*Praise the Lord, my soul. Lord you are very great; you are clothed in splendour and majesty*". The Psalmist affirms the presence of God himself. God is above all, unique and powerful.

And yet, according to the Psalmist, that same God also provides water for the animals to drink, places for the birds of the air to nest, the sun to light our day and the moon our nights.

Such a God is always worthy of our praise even when we are not marking the gathering of the Harvest. God does what he does every single day. He is always God to us.

Perhaps later on in October, as we mark 2 years of our very successful union of Churches, the same thought will come to us. Day in and day

out... week in and week out... and now year in and year out, God has been faithful to us.

We have much to give thanks for, just as the Psalmist writes at Psalm 104 verse 33, *"I will sing to the Lord, all my life. I will sing praise to him as long as I live"*.

With every best wish and blessing at this time.

Your friend and Minister

Robin Allison (Rev)

Our Minister

Rev Robin N Allison

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Get your brain cells ready! Tom Gordon is hosting a Quiz Night on Friday 30th October at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

Prizes ... Refreshments ... Teams of 6 ...

Bring your own team or make up a team on the night

Test your knowledge, have fun and make friends

Tickets £5 per person – pay at the door

Funerals

Evelyn McIntosh on 13th July 2026

Jessie Hobbs on 30th August 2026

Helen Clark on 7th September 2026

Marlene Love on 22nd September 2026

Word for Today

Most of us would admit there are bits of the Bible that we just don't understand – and that's OK. Indeed, Mark Twain said it was the bits he did understand that bothered him!

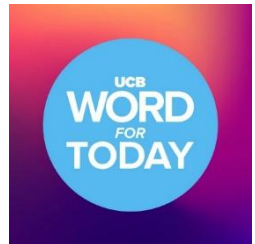
Those were the bits he needed to do something about.

It can be difficult to find time to read the Bible regularly, even though we resolve to do so.

Where do we start? How much to read? Will I be the odd one out or be seen as a “Bible basher”?

There's a gentle way to get started. About 40 people in our church family already use this method. It's call “Word for Today” – a free Bible reading help. There's one verse each day and a short comment to help us think and understand.

Bit by bit it does make a difference to our daily living, so why not give it a try? The next booklet starts in November. Simply pick up your free copy – no one checks up on you. There's nothing to lose and lots to gain.



Christmas Edition out on Sunday 29th November

Email info to Sheila by Sunday 15th November

CPSParishChurch@outlook.com

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Our Children's Policy

We wanted to make sure everyone is aware of our policy regarding children in church:

If your children are loud, please still come to church.

If you're running late because getting everyone out the door was a battle, please still come to church.

If your toddler won't sit still, please still come to church.

If your baby needs to eat, please still come to church.

If your child asks questions at the least convenient time, please still come to church.

If someone cries, drops a toy, needs a snack, or has to make their third trip to the bathroom, please still come to church.

If your child doesn't know all the words, all the prayers, or exactly when to sit and stand, please still come to church.

If you feel like you spent the entire service managing your children and heard approximately 12% of the sermon, please still come to church.

If Sunday morning feels messy instead of peaceful, please still come to church.

If you're worried your children are distracting the people around you, please still come to church.

Because children do not learn how to be part of the Church by staying home until they can sit quietly.

They learn by being here.

They learn the singing by hearing us sing.

They learn the prayers by hearing us pray.

They learn to worship by watching us worship.

They learn that church is home because we make room for them here.

The wiggles, whispers, dropped crayons, crying babies, and little voices are not interruptions to the life of the Church.

They are evidence that the Church is alive.

So, bring the babies. Bring the toddlers. Bring the big kids. Come late. Sit in the back. Sit in the front. Step out when you need to and come right back in.

Just come.

Children are not simply the future of the Church. They are part of the Church right now. If we don't make room for the next generation in the Church, we risk becoming a generation that leaves behind empty churches. The children in our pews today are the Church leaders, worshippers, and servants of tomorrow.

At Cockenzie and Port Seton Parish Church, there is a place for them here.



PYRAMID ROCK

Children and Youth News



After a rest for the team over the summer, **Kids Kirk** is back for their 14th year. This year we are learning about Joseph. Each month we have a word of the day. In September we started with **Promise**, when we learnt about the size of Abraham's family and where Joseph fitted in. Our word for October is **Dreamer**; we'll hear about Joseph's colourful coat and his dreams. In November we will hear about the **Planner** and Joseph being sold by his brothers!

In December, we have a Christmas Special. There is an open time for friends and families after the morning session. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

Please contact Sheila to request further information.

KidsKirkLeaders@outlook.com or text - 07980 059 974.

God Bless, *Sheila, Amanda, and team*



Friday Drop In

Our first meeting took place on Friday 4th September and we were entertained by Alex Hodgson; a regular supporter of our Friday gets togethers. We enjoyed a great variety of music from Scottish folk tunes to Rock and Roll classics. At our October meeting we enjoyed singing along and dancing to music from the sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties provided by John Edmond.

On November 6th THOMAS will be singing for us. Please come along and join us and enjoy the music and fellowship over tea/coffee and tasty treats. Everyone is welcome!



Charity Coffee Morning in Aid of Parkinson's and Pancreatic Cancer.

A group of people from the Church and wider Community are organising a coffee morning on **Saturday 7th November 10am till 12.30pm** in the Cockenzie and Port Seton Parish Church Hall. Tickets are £5 and there will be an opportunity to buy treats from the Home Baking Stall and gifts from various Craft Stalls. Please come along and support these important charities.

THANK YOU!

Barrie Johnston would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and good wishes following his recent ill health.



James and Alice Hood would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards, and blessings on their special 70th Wedding Anniversary.



Church Flowers – thank you cards for the Church Flowers are displayed on the noticeboard in the Church Hall.

Thrift Shop

It has been a busy summer in the Thrift shop with lots of visitors and items being donated. Due to the closure of other second-hand shops in Tranent and Prestonpans at times we have been completely overwhelmed with donations of goods, and have had weeks where we were unable to take any more clothes, and days where we have been unable to accept anything at all! This, as you can imagine, makes for very hard work for the loyal staff who continue to work tirelessly to keep the shop clean and in good order. Our very grateful thanks go to them all.

Over the last few weeks, the team have worked exceptionally hard to put out winter woolies, jackets and boots that had been stored over the summer. Through the operation of the shop as well as supporting the church we have also been able to make donations to the following charities so far this year: East Lothian Food Bank, Women's Aid, St Columba's Hospice, Preston Lodge, Beyond Boundaries, Roots and Fruits, The Scottish Air Ambulance, and Smile Train. In the coming months we are hoping to add a donation to fundraisers being organised by others for Hospital wards, Pancreatic Cancer and Parkinson's Disease.

Thanks again to everyone for all their support.

Property Report

Our architect has been working on the plans required for the proposed alterations and the tender process. In addition to the plans shown to the Congregation in June, Electrical, Lighting and Heating plans have been prepared and approved by the Kirk Session and tenders have been sent out. Hopefully some quotes will be received in the coming weeks which will be approved by the Kirk Session and then forwarded to Presbytery and the General Trustees for their approval. We will not be able to schedule any work until we have gone through this process and being realistic it is unlikely any work will start until early next year.

The rear boundary wall has been re-harled up to the gate and is looking good and over the summer the south facing garden has been tidied up with a lot of shrubbery removed. Some work is still required but hopefully next year this area could be used for some outdoor events. The trees are also scheduled to be cut back at the end of November. The Presbytery Property Report received earlier this year highlighted that some work was needed to the roof and quotes are in the process for being received for this work.

John Murdoch

OUR WORSHIP
Rev Robin Allison will conduct worship.
unless otherwise stated.



Sunday 18th October

10.00am All-Age Worship – Tom Gordon

11.00am Morning Worship – Rev Bob Glover

The Minister will be on holiday between Monday 12th and Tuesday 20th October

Sunday 25th October

10.00am All-Age Worship – George Smith

11.00am Morning Worship – with Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Sunday 1st November

10.00am All-Age Worship – Colin Sutherland

11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 8th November

10.50am Service at War Memorial

11.30am Remembrance Service



Sunday 15th November

10.00am All-Age Worship – Rev Robin Allison

11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 22nd November

10.00am All-Age Worship – Amanda Johnston

11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 29th November – 1st in Advent

10.00am All-Age Worship – Linda Bradley

11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 6th December – 2nd in Advent

10.00am All-Age Worship – Anne Sutherland

11.00am Morning Worship – with Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 13th December – 3rd in Advent

10.00am All-Age Worship – Mary Gordon

11.00am Morning Worship



Church Calendar

Sunday

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

11.00am - Morning Worship

Monday

6.00-8.30pm - Beavers and Cubs

Tuesday

10.00am - Walking Group

2.00-3.30pm – Chest, Heart and Stroke Group (every second week)

6.00-7.30pm – Brownies

7.00pm - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)

8.00-10pm - AA Group

Wednesday

10.30am - 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)

10.30am – 12noon – Coffee and Chat (4th Wednesday of month)

5.00-6.15pm – Rainbows

7.15pm - The Guild (3rd of month) (June-Sept)

Thursday

6.30-8.00pm - Brownies

Friday

10.30-12noon - Keep Fit Class

10.00am-2.00pm - AA Group

2.00-4.00pm Drop-In (1st Friday of the month)

7.00pm-9.00pm - Scouts

Saturday

10.00am-12 noon - Kids Kirk (3rd Saturday of month) (Sept-June)



Contact us:

CPSParishChurch@outlook.com



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instagram.com/cps_parish_church



www.cockenzieandportsetonparishchurch.co.uk



Please recycle this newsletter and care for the earth as God intended.

Cockenzie and Port Seton Parish Church (Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity SC004630