

# Your Parish



# Newsletter



February 2025

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Dear Friends,

**The Manse, February 2025**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024 marked a brand new chapter in the life of the Church in Cockenzie and Port Seton. After the best part of 2 years of planning and discussion, we united to become one congregation of God's people and thereafter to be known simply as *"Cockenzie and Port Seton Parish Church"*.

I want to pay my sincere tribute to the representatives from both former congregations for the magnificent work of planning for this union, for their friendship and open mindedness as well as the genuine faith and love of Christ's Church that they have displayed. I think we are reaping the benefits of the work they did so well.

It has been good to see such well attended services on a Sunday morning and a delight to watch the various working groups and committees getting on with their remits (which you will read more about later in this magazine). Most special of all has been the fellowship – seeing people make a real effort to draw together.

I also want to thank you for the support and affirmation that you have shown me in recent months. For a significant number of church members, I am "the new Minister", even as I am not the "new minister" to a significant number of other members! In any case, leading worship is the greatest privilege, and I trust that we will all continue to grow together in faith.

Please do feel free to approach me for any support I can offer. My contact details are in this magazine. You will also find later in this magazine details of all our office bearers. I am sure that they too would only too happy to be contacted, should you need their help or guidance.

Let me conclude these words, though, with the very first words that I shared as the call to worship on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, the first Sunday after our service of union:

***In this place a welcome is to be found.***

***In this place, we will seek to discover Jesus together.***

***In this place, we will deepen our faith and our awareness of God.***

***In this place there is friendship to be found.***

***In this place, there is understanding and compassion.***

***In this place, voices will be raised in praise to the one who made us.***

***This is our new Church – Cockenzie and Port Seton Parish Church... a Church not just for us but also for the whole community around us.***

***We will welcome the stranger... the seeker after understanding and the traveller on the journey of faith...***

***We are in the presence of an almighty God,  
and ALL are welcome here...***

May it be so...!

Your Friend and Minister, Robin Allison (Rev)

**Our Minister**

**Rev Robin N Allison**

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## Session Section

You will recall that the Elders of our new congregation were asked to renew their vows at the Service of Union in October, one of which is “to take your due part in the administration of its affairs.” This is the task at Kirk Session meetings, and five regular meetings are being planned through the year. Three already having taken place since the union, where we have finalised the management structure, appointing Committees and working Groups – and discussed practicalities. Office bearers have been appointed, and work has begun, as is evident elsewhere in this Newsletter, and contact details provided for your reference.

I wish to bring your attention to one of our ‘legal’ requirements as a Charity – which is to follow General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Our Data Protection Policy can be found on the notice board in the Church Hall.

Mrs Lyn Marshall has been appointed as Roll Keeper, and she has now combined the Communion Rolls of our former churches. This contains the names and addresses of all members, so that we can keep in touch with you - to inform you of Services and activities, invite you to special or shared local events, and to offer and give support where and when it may be needed.

At our January meeting it was confirmed that information in the Roll is being kept in accordance with the GDPR guidelines provided by the Church of Scotland, in an order where the information (data) you have given to us is available to be passed on - with password protection if online - only to those who need it as relevant – e.g. the Minister, your Elder, the Treasurer, Gift Aid Convenor, or Pastoral Care team.

But the Regulations do not just require *us* to be careful with your details. They also put control of the information we keep in *your* hands. A regular note in our Newsletter will now remind you that you can contact the Roll-Keeper at any time.

- to check what details we keep,
- to correct any errors, or
- to advise of any changes.

You can ask us to remove any details, but we do already keep minimal records – of name address, and District Elder.

Since Covid, we have added some more contact details *if supplied* – telephone numbers and/or email addresses. Your elder will ask if you would like these contact details to be kept for possible use by the Minister or Pastoral Team, but these would only be passed on to the Roll-Keeper with your approval for including in our records. Other personal information you may share will not be recorded – though if you tell us a special birthday is coming up, it may be a shame not to recognise it!

*Mary Gordon, Joint Session Clerk*

## **About our New Church Committees**

In this magazine you will find reports from some of our new Church Committees. Our committee structure was agreed prior to the union of the Churches (by the former Kirk Sessions) and are as follows:

**Pastoral** – led by Liz Malcolm and Lyn Marshall

**Property** – led by John Murdoch

**Mission** – led by Robin Allison

**Finance** – led by Eleanor Willins

Over and above that, we also have catering teams, counting and door duty teams (Janice Bulloch), a Bible reading rota, a worship leading team (co-ordinated by Tom Gordon), Kids Kirk (Sheila Bulloch and Amanda Johnston) as well as a plethora of folk carrying out different tasks including running website and Facebook pages (Sheila Bulloch) and I am sure I have missed out something somewhere, but you get the idea!!! There's lots of people doing lots of things!!!

We are deeply grateful for all the work that is carried out for our new church, and we pray that God will bless all that we do in his name.

You will find contact details for all our main office bearers on the inside front cover.

At the end of the newsletter, you will also find the list and times of all the various activities that take place week by week.

If there is something you'd like to be involved in, just let me know!!!

**Robin Allison**

# ***Stepping Stones***

## **Helping you at a difficult time**

The *Stepping Stones* bereavement support programmes, run by church folk for almost ten years, had to stop because of Covid. After reviewing what would be most useful in our communities, a monthly drop-in service, open to anyone who is living with loss, began in September of last year. The drop-in support service takes place in the Port Seton Community Centre on the second Tuesday of every month, from 7-8.30pm. All are welcome.

The *Stepping Stones* team from our church create a friendly space where people are welcomed and listened to and can share with others who are living with bereavement issues. The focus is on hope and purpose, as people move forward with their loss. The team is co-ordinated by Tom Gordon. If anyone would like to talk about being involved with the team, or to come along as a participant, please get in touch. Leaflets are available at the church, and further information can be accessed by email at [steppingstones.mail@gmail.com](mailto:steppingstones.mail@gmail.com)

**STEPPING STONES**  
*Bereavement Support Service*

The church's *Stepping Stones* team  
continue to offer a

**DROP-IN  
BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT  
SERVICE**

The next one will take place on  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm**  
in the Port Seton Community Centre,  
and on the second Tuesday of each month.

**Leaflets are available in the church.**  
**Further information from**  
[steppingstones.mail@gmail.com](mailto:steppingstones.mail@gmail.com)  
or speak to Tom Gordon

**Stepping  
Stones**



*Bereavement  
Support*

Helping you at a difficult time

## **Friday Drop In Cafe**

The Drop In had its first meeting of 2025 on the 7th of February. The John Bellany Centre joined us as usual, and we were entertained by Glenkinchie. A great time was had by all singing and dancing along to a variety of styles of music.

The dates of the Drop In till June 2025 are given below along with the names of the entertainers who will provide the music.

Come along and joins us. Meet friends old and new, chat over tea / coffee and tasty treats and enjoy the uplifting music.

Anyone wishing to help out with the Drop In should get in touch with Elizabeth Malcolm, Irene Penman or Kathleen Chappell. A warm welcome awaits.

### **Drop In Dates – Friday; - 2pm till 4pm**

14th March - Alex Hodgeson

4th April - Eddie Raven

2nd May - Anita

6th June - John Edmond





## **Pastoral Care at Cockenzie and Port Seton Parish Church**

One of the important tasks following the union in October 2024 of Cockenzie Old Parish and Chalmers Memorial Churches was to merge the two Church Rolls and create new Elder's districts. Lyn Marshall, our new Roll Keeper, took on this mammoth task and has done a wonderful job. There are a few minor adjustments to make to the Elder's districts, but all members will be visited by their allocated Elder in due course.

New **Pastoral Care Teams** have also been created to visit members and friends who are in Care Homes or who are unable to attend Church. The Teams will visit several times a year and will deliver cards and small gifts at Easter and Christmas. It is the intention Elders and Pastoral Care Teams will work closely to ensure appropriate care and support is given to all members and friends.

### **Safeguarding**

Now that the two churches are united, Linda Bradley and Christine Maclean will share the job of Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

As with much of modern life, nothing stands still, and many changes have taken place with Safeguarding, over the years it has been in existence – over 20. However, keeping our children and vulnerable people safe is our objective and we can't do this without your help. If you see or hear anything that makes you think "that's not right" then please talk to Linda or Christine. No concern is too small and though it may seem insignificant, it may be the part of a jigsaw that's needed to complete a picture. We've spoken at the conference in August/September and gave a short talk in church about Safeguarding. We hope to continue to do this so that you get the best understanding of what safeguarding is all about and can help us to keep everyone safe. A telephone number for Safeguarding is displayed in the church should you ever need to use it.

Christine and Linda

## **The following Tribute was delivered by the Minister in memory of Jane Johnston at the Kirk Session on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Jane was born on the 13th of January 1968, to Archie and Janet Johnston. She was brought up in 13, Gosford Road, Port Seton along with her sister Alison and brother Tom, the youngest of the three children.

She went to Cockenzie Primary School and then to Preston Lodge High School and in 1985 the family moved to their current home in Cockenzie.

Her first and only Saturday job, whilst still at school, was working in her cousin Marilyn's hairdressing shop in Fisherrow.

However, Jane was also good friends with Harriot Gracie whilst at school, and indeed right up until Jane passed away. One day in Harriot's house, the late Dr Gracie from the surgery asked Jane if she'd be interested in a receptionist job at the practice.

She started work in the Health Centre in the September of 1985 and worked there until the October of 2024 when she was too unwell to continue.

Dr Churn, one of the senior partners at the Medical Practice said this about Jane at her funeral service: *"Jane is not replaceable. Simply, she WAS the Harbours Medical Practice"*.

In that same tribute, he spoke about how she guided the practice through multiple changes over the years whilst maintaining a strong sense of care for patients and staff alike – always discrete, always efficient but knowing too how to listen and deal with the challenges before her.

At the same time, Jane found an almost incredible amount of space in her life outside an already demanding schedule at work to be involved in so many different things too:

Box meetings... the Gala Day... Boatie Blest... Secretary of the Port Seton Harbour Commissioners to name but a few of her many commitments.

And then there was her unstinting service to the former Old Parish Church where she was an elder. She was the technical support in the Church but was also a Presbytery Elder and had also served at a General Assembly.

And where Jane was, home baking and catering were never far behind...

She baked for the Church... she baked for the Dr's Surgery... for local community events...

She hosted dinner parties for family and friends...

She organised teams of caterers and many were the times that you'd turn up at a church event to find Jane helping to head up the kitchen team...

And yet Jane was, in many ways, a quiet person. She would never have been the noisiest person in the room but, at the same time, you knew she was there. Things happened around her. Things happened because of her.

She would have been an asset to our newly united congregation. Jane was a strong supporter of what we have been doing in recent months, and we know that she would have been front and centre in our congregation even today.

What a blessing it was to have her worshipping in what, tragically, was to be her last Church service, on the day of the Union – standing with all the elders declaring her recommitment to that important role.

For those who had the privilege of sharing even a small part of her final journey there was only admiration – admiration for her strength and admiration for the compassion and love that surrounded her until her passing on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Today we give thanks for Jane's life and commend her beloved family – her dad Archie, her sister Alison and her brother Tom and her niece and nephews – to almighty God.





On behalf of my Mum, Nanna Naples just to say thank you very much for the floral arrangement and card sent from the Church for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was delighted with this. *Faye Townsend*

### **Women's Aid East and Midlothian**

A letter was received from Kirsty Wallace, a Domestic Abuse Practitioner, thanking Church members and friends for the donation of gifts and cash enabling Mums, children, and female survivors to have a very special Christmas. Kirsty commented that our continuing support for the organisation is invaluable and means a great deal.



### **Donations for Ukraine**



An email was received from Oleg Dmitriev of **Sunflower Scotland** thanking the Church for the donation of money and clothing. The Charity delivered warm boots and winter jackets to struggling people in four villages 20km south of Vovchansk: a town in the Kharkiv region, which was destroyed by the Russians in 2024.

### **Guild News**

The Guild is planning to resume their meetings soon, starting from April through to September. More information will be given shortly regarding dates and times, so watch this space!!



## Property Report

The following work has been done since the last Newsletter:

1. The Big Clear-out to create space for the items which came from the Old Parish Church was reasonably successful in that enough space was created to accommodate everything which came albeit some rationalization will be required over the coming months.
2. The Alarm system was replaced.
3. The new Notice Board is now in place but the grass surround is still to be paved.
4. The large lime tree behind the Church has been pruned back for safety reasons.
5. Both sets of Church gates are to be replaced with John Johnston commissioned to carry out this work.
6. The Church was decorated for the Remembrance Day and Christmas services. Thanks to everyone who helped.
7. Minor electrical work has been carried out.

Work in hand:

- a. The spotlights above the sanctuary need replacing but the existing ones are not manufactured any more. For safety reasons scaffolding will probably be required, adding to the cost.
- b. Water is coming in from the top of the left hand side stained glass window in certain stormy conditions. Efforts are progressing to find the source of the water.
- c. A quote for improving the disabled access at the rear of the hall is awaited.
- d. Storm Eowyn left its mark with the window in the stairwell being blown out and damage to the Old Parish Church Hall roof. Both are subject to Insurance Claims.

*John Murdoch, Property Convenor*

## **Finance report**

First of all, I'd like to pay tribute to the wonderful work done by Ian Bulloch and Bobby Irvine as treasurers over many years. Their work has been magnificent.

We have spent a large amount of time since the Union bringing all of the accounts together into our new church. This has meant renaming accounts and adding signatories. This is all still a 'work in progress', as we are dependent upon the bank doing its part in good time.

## **Standing Order**

Please consider contributing regularly by Standing Order. This gives us a regular income and allows for budgeting to be made more easily. The details you need are available from me at any time - please just ask!

## **Gift Aid**

If you pay tax (which most of us do!), then please consider using Gift Aid. This is a scheme by the Government in which they top up our giving - they add 20p for every 80p donated, meaning a 25% increase. This is all done at no cost to you whatsoever - it is literally 'free' money! Forms for Gift Aid are available from John Murdoch or from me.

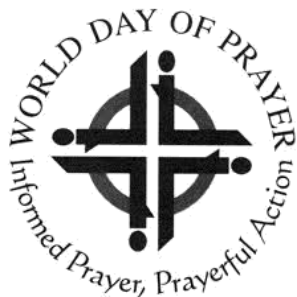
## **Giving**

We are in tough financial circumstances personally, as is the church. At the start of the year, if you could consider increasing your offering, that would be greatly appreciated, as it will allow us to continue to work for God's glory right here in this place. Many thanks to everyone for all that you do in supporting our church financially. It is greatly appreciated.

*Colin Sutherland,  
Treasurer*



## World Day of Prayer



The World Day of Prayer is on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm in Cockenzie and Port Seton Parish Church. The theme of this years' service is **"I made you wonderful"** and has been prepared by Guild members of the **Cook Islands**. If you are able, please come along to this very special service. It is an opportunity to worship in spirit with the worldwide Guild Community, and in particular with members and friends from the Cook Islands. There will be a chance after the service to chat over tea/coffee and tasty treats. Come along and enjoy the fellowship.

## Remembering the Fallen in Two World Wars

It is so important we remember those who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars and that the new church has a memorial with an accurate list of the fallen. To this end the names of those on the war memorial window in the Old Parish Church and those on the war memorial of Chalmers Memorial Church have been combined. This list was also checked with the names on the war memorial on the village green and any omissions were added. There is now an accurate list of the fallen in two World Wars in place and it is envisaged at some point in the future a new war memorial will be created for the new Church.



It is unclear at this time what the best "home" is for the war memorial window in the Old Parish Church. Discussion with East Lothian Council and the Church of Scotland need to take place to explore the appropriate course of action.



# Children and Youth News



**Kids Kirk** meets monthly in the Church Hall. We enjoyed a Christmas special in December, it was lovely to see family and friends join us for lunch. This session we are exploring the High C's in Adventure Cruise, and continue to look at how Jesus changed people's lives. **Kids Kirk** is open to children in primary 1 through to primary 7. We meet on the following dates:

**15<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 12noon**

**26<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Special – 10am – 2pm**

**– join us for lunch from 12.15pm**

**24<sup>th</sup> May 10am – 12noon**

**21<sup>st</sup> June – Final Session - 10am – 2pm**

**– join us for lunch from 12.15pm for our family time**

Please contact Sheila to request further information.

<https://www.facebook.com/chalmersmemorial>

or text - 07980 059 974. God Bless, *Sheila, Amanda, and team*



## **Funerals since last newsletters**

David Jardine - 10th October 2024

Jean Thomson - 25th October 2024

Margaret Mack - 28th October 2024

Thomas Thomson - 31st October 2024

Jane Johnston - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

John Barber - 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024

David Waugh - 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Bettine Robertson - 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024



## Mission Committee

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, one of our new committees is the Mission Committee. It met for the first time on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 when we set ourselves the task of looking at our remit. Broadly speaking we have two basic remits.

One is to look inwards – to help Church members develop their faith through prayer, bible study and discussion.

The other is to look outwards – at how we relate to the community, local organisations and how we make connections with folk who are not connected to the Church who may have an interest in finding out more. It will take time for us to develop plans and ideas, and we are looking for ideas as well.

However, to make a start we are planning a Lenten Bible Study series – 4 weekly sessions beginning on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March until Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** in one of the meeting rooms behind the stage. Each Session will commence at **7.15pm and last until around 8.30pm**. We will be looking at some bible passages surrounding Jesus' journey to the cross.

Joyce Buchanan and Moyra Kaminski also have access to Bible reading notes which are free of charge. Please speak to either of them if you would like to try them out.

Kids Kirk will also continue and is reaching out to an increasing number of children on a monthly basis. It is vital that we offer what support we can to the work that they do. We don't have a lot of children about on a Sunday morning, so this is a crucial connection point. Sheila Bulloch and Amanda Johnston offer a warm welcome to the team.

Over and above that we now have a new website (still very much in development) at [www.cockenzieandportsetonparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.cockenzieandportsetonparishchurch.co.uk).

Our Facebook page is already very active and can be found at: [www.facebook.com/cockenzieandportsetonparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/cockenzieandportsetonparishchurch)

We also have our new newsletter – you are reading it just now!!!

If you want to help our next meeting is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15pm in one of the meeting rooms behind the stage.

Robin Allison

# OUR WORSHIP

**Rev Robin Allison will conduct worship.  
unless otherwise stated.**



## **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

10.00am All-Age Worship – Rev Robin Allison

11.00am Morning Worship

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

10.00am All-Age Worship – Tom Gordon

11.00am Morning Worship – with Sacrament of Holy Communion

## **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March – First Sunday in Lent**

10.00am All-Age Worship – Anne Sutherland

11.00am Morning Worship

## **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Second Sunday in Lent**

10.00am All-Age Worship – Mary Gordon

11.00am Morning Worship



## **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Third Sunday in Lent**

10.00am All-Age Worship – Marilyn Steele

11.00am Morning Worship – Lead by the worship team

## **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Fourth Sunday in Lent**

10.00am All-Age Worship – Colin Sutherland

11.00am Morning Worship

## **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

10.00am All-Age Worship – George Smith

11.00am Morning Worship

6.15pm Song of Praise Evening Service



## **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Palm Sunday**

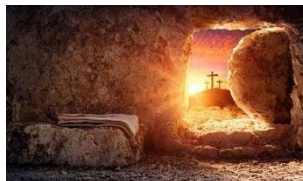
10.00am All-Age Worship – Sandra Stewart

11.00am Morning Worship

## **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day**

10.00am Easter Family Breakfast  
in the Church Hall

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

7.00pm - Prayer Meeting (on zoom)

8.00-10pm - AA Group

### **Tuesday**

10.00am - Walking Group

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

6.00-7.30pm – Brownies

### **Wednesday**

10.30am - Crafters (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month)

10.00am – 12noon – Coffee and Chat (Last of month)

1.30-3.00pm - Indoor Curling (1<sup>st</sup> and Last of month)

1.30-3.00pm - Get Together (2<sup>nd</sup> of month)

5.00-6.15pm - Rainbows

7.00-9.00pm - Scouts

### **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 (1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month)

7.00pm-9.00pm - Scouts

### **Saturday**

10.00am-12 noon - Kids Kirk (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month)



## Contact us:

[CPSParishChurch@outlook.com](mailto:CPSParishChurch@outlook.com)



[facebook.com/cockenzieandportsetonparishchurch](https://facebook.com/cockenzieandportsetonparishchurch)



[instagram.com/cps\\_parish\\_church](https://instagram.com/cps_parish_church)



[www.cockenzieandportsetonparishchurch.co.uk](http://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