

Your Parish



Newsletter

Summer 2026



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Dear Friends,

The Manse, June 2026

I have begun my pastoral letters in Church magazines with those words – *“Dear friends”* – throughout my ministry because I believe that friendship matters.

I began thinking about this because, at one of our very recent early services at the Church, the worship leader reminded us of the importance of friendship. Good friends, after all, they told us, can keep a confidence or give good advice and, sometimes, even face us with a reality about ourselves that we need to hear but who do so in a loving and caring way.

I like the way that the TV presenter Oprah Winfrey once put the subject of friendship: *“Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down”*

As we were reminded at that early service, Jesus in the upper room on the night before his death puts the word *“friendship”* right at the heart of his own relationship with his disciples.

John 15 and verse 15, *“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”*

I am sure it is such friendship which sustains any congregation of God’s people, even our own fellowship.

We see it every Sunday when folk arrive at Church together and where and who they choose to sit with. We see it when folk get together for a coffee after worship and, most crucially, we see it in the way that folk are remembered when their need is greatest when they can be supported by our ministry of flowers or through a visit or telephone call.

Such friendship shown to us is what surely keeps us worshipping together one with another. And, of course, knowing Jesus truly is our friend – well, that can make all the difference in the world!

With every blessing as we now enter these summer months.

Your friend and Minister

Robin Allison (Rev)

Our Minister

Rev Robin N Allison

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Proposed New Church Layout

Pop in anytime between

10am and noon on

Saturday 20th June

for tea, coffee and a

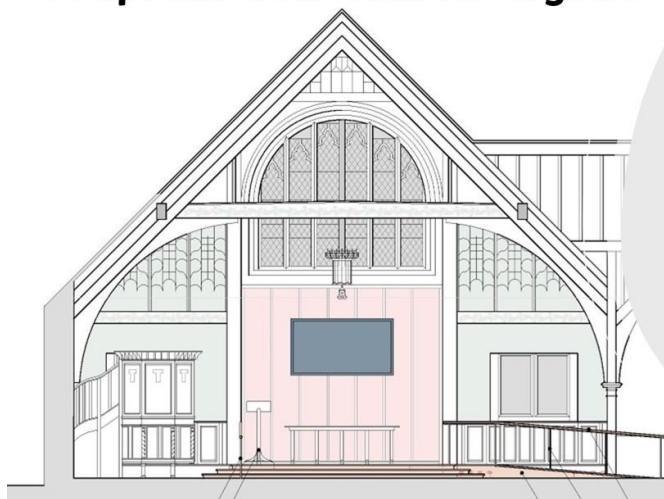
chance to chat about

and discuss the plans on

the proposed project

with members of the

property team.



More details on Page 4

Safeguarding -Volunteering Opportunity

At Cockenzie and Port Seton Parish Church we are committed to ensuring that our church is safe for all individuals particularly children and 'at risk' or vulnerable adults. We have in post 2 Safeguarding Coordinators and in accordance with Church of Scotland procedures we are also required to appoint a Safeguarding Panel.

The Safeguarding Panel's job is to assist the Safeguarding coordinators make sound decisions and take appropriate action in cases where an issue relating to safeguarding has been raised. The Panel does not need to convene regularly but it is important that when issues occur, there is a panel in place to meet, discuss and take appropriate decisions or actions.

The panel in our Church consists of 5 people, all drawn from the congregation, 2 coordinators plus 3 others. Due to the recent passing of one of our elders, and the retiral of another, we now have a vacancy for a panel member.

Anyone wishing to apply is asked to have an understanding of Safeguarding policies and their implementation. The ability to listen, take part in a discussion and contribute to coming to a consensus would be an advantage. A good awareness of confidentiality is also necessary for this role as is a good understanding of its importance. Training is provided by Church of Scotland and applicants for this volunteer post are required to attend.

Applicants will be requested to attend an interview and references will be required for this post. If contributing to the Safeguarding of the church is important to you and you feel you have the necessary attributes, please talk to Linda Bradley or Christine Maclean, who will be happy to give more information.



Property Report

The last few weeks have been spent preparing the Property Register and Manse Condition Schedule for Presbytery. These are annual documents which provide an update on what improvements we have made during the past year and details those which we plan to do in the coming year. In addition, Lothian Presbytery commissioned a report as well on the Church and hall buildings, finding some roofing work and other external work needs to be completed but not urgently.

However, the main focus over the past six months or so has been preparing plans for various changes which are considered necessary at the front of the Church. These have now been agreed by the Kirk Session and we plan to hold a coffee morning on 20th June (10.00-12noon) when these will be made available to the Congregation. Members of the Property Committee will be available and if you cannot make that date the opportunity will exist after future services if anyone has any queries.

The work being planned includes tidying up the front of the church, re-wiring, improving the heating system and the lighting. As the project evolves other work may be needed but we will deal with that as required.

This project is planned to be the first phase of a longer-term project to include other work which is needing to be done, including removing moss from the hall roof, resurfacing the hall building externally, new doors at the rear hall entrance and possibly double glazing. Neither the Property Committee or the Kirk Session have discussed in detail how that work will be funded but it is extremely likely fundraising by the Congregation will be required.

John Murdoch

Funerals

Duncan Morgan - on 5th March 2026

Matthew McPhee - on 10th March 2026

William McDonald - on 28th May 2026

James Johnstone JP (Jim) on 11th May 2026

William Murray (Bill) on 11th June 2026

Friday Drop In

The last Drop In before the summer break was held on Friday 5th June. Kingsley entertained us with a variety of popular music that had people singing along and taking to the dance floor. A great time was had by all. Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Drop In and we look forward to seeing you in September.

The Drop In is on holiday in July and August. The new dates for 2026 are:
September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th and December 4th.

Come along and meet friends old and new and enjoy the music and chat over tea/coffee and tasty treats.

Best wishes for a great summer. The Drop In Team.



**We raised £1140 for Christian Aid week and
I am delighted that this amount has been matched by the
Thrift Shop giving a final total of **£2280.**
Thanks again to everyone who contributed.
Eleanor Willins, Christian Aid Coordinator**

At the Kirk Session on 18th March 2026, the following Tribute was delivered by Rev Robin Allison in memory of Duncan Morgan, who passed away on 18th February.

Duncan was born on the 17th December 1940 to Tom and Mary Morgan in Forth Park Maternity Hospital, Kirkcaldy, a twin to his brother Alex. Home was in the Sinclairtown area of Kirkcaldy with the family home being at 2 Banks Road. Barely (or not even) 4 years old, however, life was to change for all his family when word was delivered to his mother that their Dad had been killed in action in Normandy on the 26th June 1944. Although his mother had to go back out to work at that point, he was fortunate that both his Grans lived either on the same street or just round the corner. They both played a huge part in his childhood.

Duncan was educated at both Sinclairtown Primary and Kirkcaldy High School where he went with his brother, Alex. Around the age of 10, following in his father's footsteps, Duncan started to learn the violin playing for both the local orchestra and the school orchestra. He also had a paper round and was a member of the Boy's Brigade.

At the age of 15 however, he left school to take up an apprenticeship at the Royal Aircraft Yard at Donibristle, Fife where he learnt to maintain aircraft though, with the closure of that site, he had to finish his apprenticeship at the Rosyth Dockyard where, aged 20, he completed his apprenticeship as a marine engineer.

By the late 1950's Duncan was also, along with friends, a regular at the dancing – especially the Burma Ballroom on the Kirkcaldy Esplanade where he met a certain Helen Sime who hailed from Methil. They were engaged in the May of 1961 and married on the 6th October 1962.

By that time, Duncan was serving in the Merchant Navy and three weeks after marriage he set sail for a whole year away from home on a boat called the "Wave Prince", a refuelling ship for the Royal Yacht Britannia.

However, a year away was enough for him and he left the Merchant Navy eventually ending up back at Rosyth Dockyard in the machine shop.

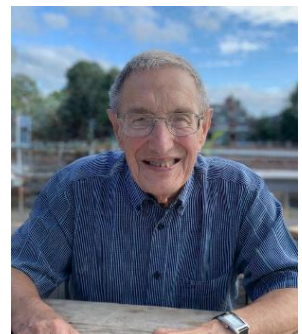
For a short while he also worked at the Methil Power Station but, in 1967, it was the opening of the Cockenzie Power Station that brought him, Helen and his new born son David, to Port Seton. Alison was born not long after that in July 1968. Duncan retired from the power station some 25 or so years ago. Not, as we remembered at his service of thanksgiving, that retirement meant relaxation for him!

Duncan had a deep interest in the poetry of Robert Burns and was for many years a member and committee member of the Seton Burns Club. He took part in many Burns suppers delivering anything from immortal memories... toasts to the lassies... poems... addressing the Haggis...

He also took up eldership in this Church, and, of course, was for many, many years Beadle here too... faithful in his service at funerals... weddings... School Assembly's. You name it, he was here for it! Until relatively recent years, he was one of our worship leaders. Discrete, understanding and obliging... Duncan epitomised everything that a quiet hard working church volunteer brings to their faith community.

Those of us who knew him well knew also that Duncan was immensely proud, too, of all his family. He devoted so much time to them over the years, taking them places, teaching them new skills and, of course, he and Helen were such an incredible team...

We are blessed to have known Duncan and we give thanks to almighty God for Duncan's gentleness, kindness and trustworthiness – thankful, indeed, for everything he brought to each one of us and to our church.



Thrift Shop – Unearthing the Gold

Can you keep that for me please!! Customers regularly call the shop or send text messages to reserve items spotted in the window of the shop or perhaps on our Facebook page.

On a weekly basis our shop staff endeavour to transform “chaotic donations” into an organised and pleasant retail experience. We have a dedicated team of staff who attempt to filter the donations “in the room at the back” and sort and price the items which are suitable for resale. Mountains of clothing and household linen are handled weekly and up to 20 bags or boxes may arrive daily. As well as bags and boxes we may receive bikes, ironing boards, fireguards, radios and televisions, guitars, high chairs, toys, books and other baby items. Electrical items donated are suitably tested for safety.

The sorting process allows any ‘Vintage, designer and regular items’ to be identified and labelled with a size and price and displayed in the shop. Advice is obtained from auctioneers and jewellery experts on any items which are considered to be more valuable. Advertising on Facebook allows us to have a wider customer base, reaching as far as Spain!

Staff are very grateful for all the donations which allow us to support the work of the Church and local and national charities.

If you haven’t visited, pop in for a browse, you are sure to find something you didn’t know you needed!



Opening Times

10am – 2pm Monday

10am – 3pm Tuesday-Saturday

THANK YOU!

Anne and Peter Anderson would like to pass on their thanks for the Easter gifts received from the Church. They miss spending time with their Church family.

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Faye Townsend would like to thank the Church for the beautiful flowers she received after Matthew's Memorial Service. Also thank you to Robin for the uplifting service - I am sure Matthew would have been proud.

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Denise, Charlie and Lauren would like to thank everyone for the flowers, support and help for the funeral of their dear uncle James Johnstone JP. He had a lovely service conducted by Marilyn which we will always remember in our hearts.

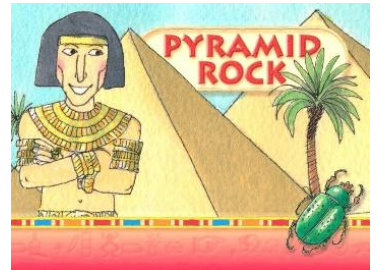


Children and Youth News



As we go to press, **Kids Kirk** will have celebrated the final term at Take Away where we travelled with Paul around the Mediterranean. The girls and boys have enjoyed their time together developing relationships with each other and building new friendships.

The team will take a well-earned rest over the summer. We'll be back with Pyramid Rock in September, where the children will explore the story of Joseph, through clues, crafts and games. Feast Time is always a favourite time of the morning, when we all share snack together. More details nearer the time.



Please contact Sheila to request further information.
KidsKirkLeaders@outlook.com or text - 07980 059 974.

God Bless, *Sheila, Amanda, and team*



Congratulations to our new Elders Doug Bradley, John Lyon and Sandra Stewart Ordained and Admitted to the Eldership on Sunday 1st March



Finance report

As always, we have had a busy time in recent weeks, with large bills for the winter heating and lighting, together with the ongoing repairs that an old building such as ours inevitably has.

We are also looking forward to a set of lovely new gates, which will be made to complement the beautiful notice board at the front.

We certainly face challenging times financially this year, unfortunately, and money is undoubtedly tight. As always, it is the giving from the congregation which sustains us, and I thank everyone for all that they do - in regular giving, using Gift Aid, supporting our activities and so much more.

Colin Sutherland, Treasurer



**The Guild are
collecting used
stamps for
The Alzheimer's
Society. Pop them
into the box at the
main entrance to
the Church Hall.**

OUR WORSHIP

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



Sunday 21st June

10.00am All-Age Worship – Tom Gordon

11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 28th June

10.00am All-Age Worship – Mary Gordon

11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 5th July

10.00am All-Age Worship – Sandra Stewart

11.00am Morning Worship

The Minister will be on holiday between Monday 6th and Tuesday 28th July

Sunday 12th July

10.00am All-Age Worship – Liz Malcolm

11.00am Morning Worship – George Smith & Marilyn Steele

Sunday 19th July

10.00am All-Age Worship – Tom Gordon

11.00am Morning Worship – Colin & Anne Sutherland

Sunday 26th July

10.00am All-Age Worship – Marilyn Steele

11.00am Morning Worship – Tom Gordon & Sandra Stewart

Sunday 2nd August

10.00am All-Age Worship – George Smith

11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 9th August

10.00am All-Age Worship – Linda Bradley

11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 16th August

10.30am Joint Service (Half Marathon Sunday)

No 10am service



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 (2nd 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



facebook.com/cockenzieandportsetonparishchurch



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