

Pathhead Parish Church



What's in a number?

Dear Friends

Aside from the excellent New Year Ball, our year got off to a flying start with the celebration of Joan Ness's 100th birthday. That was closely followed by the baptism of Caleb Thomas Baxendale who was at the opposite end of the age spectrum – and then, in February, there was my 50th celebration on the first Sunday of the month (a special blessing because I was born on a Sunday).

What was even more surprising was to discover that our Trainee Minister, Chris Hay, had celebrated her birthday just the day before; and a dear member of our congregation was celebrating a significant birthday, which also contained a zero, on the Monday!

Over the past few months, I have been reflecting upon the significance of certain dates, not least because I reached 25 years as an Ordained Parish Minister in October of last year. Birthdays, anniversaries and special dates have a way of making us think about our lives and the blessings we must count every day.

When I baptise a child, I am reminded that each day is a special gift from God. When I marry a couple, I like to think that they will have many special anniversaries ahead.

When I officiate at a funeral of someone who has lived a long and fulfilling life, I might quote from Psalm 90, verse 12, "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

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*"Life is too short
to get caught up
in petty
squabbles"*

From a biblical perspective, we are encouraged to number our days, not in a morbid way - but rather to ensure that our days on earth are not wasted. How often have we heard the phrase, "Life is too short"? It's often repeated because we know it to be true:

Life is too short to get caught up in petty squabbles.

Life is too short to bear grudges.

Life is too short to sit around all day.

Life is too short to worry about things which may never happen.

Children's Nursery Rhymes, often convey a deeper truth about life and we find that in the rhyme about Solomon Grundy... Solomon Grundy, born on a Monday, christened on Tuesday, married on Wednesday, took ill on Thursday, grew worse on Friday, died on Saturday, buried on Sunday. That was the end, of Solomon Grundy.

Later this year, the world will be marking one-hundred years since the end of the First World War. At these commemorations, many will be reflecting on the tragedy of so many young lives being cut short and so many others who were left maimed and mentally scarred. Whatever our age and stage of life, we do well to number our days and count ourselves fortunate to share in the amazing gift of life.

The Psalmist encourages us to number our days and gain a heart of wisdom, so let me conclude with these wise words from Psalm 139:13-16.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,

when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

"The Psalmist encourages us to number our days and gain a heart of wisdom"

Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be."

Your friend and minister
Andrew Donald.

Family Register

DEATHS: JESUS SAID,
'BECAUSE I LIVE, YOU
WILL LIVE ALSO'

Deaths

Mrs Jean Adams,
Balwearie Road, Kirkcaldy
7 January 2018

Mr George Johnston
Ore Bridge, Thornton
25 February 2018



Sacrament of Baptism

Caleb Thomas Baxendale
21st January 2018

Comments?
pathheadchurch@
outlook.com

Flowers

The Flower Team wish to thank all who give monetary donations for flowers that are displayed in the Church each Sunday. The flowers are greatly appreciated by all who receive them.

December 2017

3rd. Mrs P Collins
10th. Flower Box
17th. Flower Box
24th. Christmas Eve
31st. New Year's Eve

January 2018

7th. Miss E Brown
14th. Mrs I Sharp
21st. Mr & Mrs G Johnston
28th. Mrs A Scott, Mrs E Duncan

February 2018

4th. Guild
11th. Mr & Mrs E Conde
18th. Flower Box
25th. Mr & Mrs D Campbell



**Thank you to all the ladies
who arrange the flowers
each week and to those
who help to deliver them.**

Pathhead Parish Church Guild

Guild Year

Every Guild year has a theme, decided at national level. The theme for 2017-2018 is "Go in Love" and, with that in mind, the opening social in September was a sing-a-long of love songs, interspersed with appropriate readings. The whole programme was devised by convener Isabelle Povey (who also doubles as speakers' convener). It was a most enjoyable evening of fun, laughter, reminiscing and, of course, great singing! So far, there has also been a programme of accomplished speakers covering a wide-ranging variety of topics.

There have been two very successful fundraising ventures. The first, on October 21st 2017, was the usual Guild Coffee Morning and the second, in November, was a concert given free by the East Fife Male Voice Choir. The total raised by these was in the region of £1,000.

A feature of the first half of the Guild year is Guild Week which takes place in November. On the opening Sunday, a number of Guild members took part - by conducting the service, doing readings, saying prayers, giving the children's address, collecting the offering and being part of the welcome team. A new feature was the first appearance of the newly-formed Guild Choir who sang the John Denver favourite "Perhaps Love".

The second half of the year 2017-2018 is now well underway and is proving to be as successful. Please note that there is a second fundraising Coffee Morning on Saturday March 17th and it is hoped that with your support - either by baking, by making contributions to the gift/book stall or simply by attending, it will be as financially successful as the first....And finally, new members and occasional visitors are always welcome.

Family Social Committee

[A Busy Start to 2018!](#)

The New Year certainly got off to a busy start for the committee with two big events taking place. The first and arguably the more important of the two, a 100th Birthday Lunch, and the second, the 37th New Year Ball.

The 'surprise' Birthday Lunch on Sunday, 7 January was indeed quite special, with just over one hundred members of the congregation, family and friends getting together to mark a very special occasion in the life of Mrs Joan Ness, a much loved and highly respected member of Pathhead for over 71 years, who had celebrated her 100th birthday on 22 December, 2017.



It's fair to say that Mrs Ness, affectionately known to us all as 'Joan', was taken aback to be given a standing ovation when she entered the Large Hall after Morning Worship. She of course was our principal guest, however was joined by daughter Aileen and her husband Stuart, eldest granddaughter Lea and husband Graham, and to highlight the significance of the occasion, Graham Bennet, OBE, QPM, DL one of Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenants in Fife, and his wife Wendy.

Family Social Committee



After cutting her cake and enjoying a hearty birthday toast, Joan and the assembled company settled down to a lovely soup and sweet lunch, ably prepared and served by committee members.



Rev. Andrew Donald, the main speaker, paid tribute to Joan and thereafter John Winter, Senior Elder entertained us in his own inimitable way, before presenting her with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the congregation. In rounding off the day, Mr Bennet extended the good wishes of HM The Queen, while at the same time giving us an interesting insight into the role of the Lieutenancy.

Family Social Committee



A very happy and special occasion indeed, not only in the life of a very special lady, but in the life of Pathhead Parish Church.

New Year Ball

Our 37th New Year Ball on Saturday, 13 January was another successful event with some eighty-seven guests enjoying the music, buffet meal and dancing in equal measure. The Dave Husband Sound as always provided the music, and the committee members the fine dining. Planning for next year's event on Saturday, 12 January, 2019 is already underway!

If you haven't been to a Pathhead Ball before, now's the time to put the date in your diary.

As you'll see from the photographs, the Church Halls are completely transformed!



Family Social Committee



Weekend Away

A varied and interesting itinerary has been arranged for our weekend to Aberdeen, the Moray Coast and Royal Deeside, Friday, 27 April - Monday, 30 April, 2018. Look out for an update in the summer edition of the Church Newsletter.

Ken Bellingham
Chairman, FSC

Treasurer's Report

Money Matters

Although our accounts still show a loss for last year, we are moving in the right direction .

Whilst our income remains fairly steady we must endeavour to increase it and only you can help us to achieve this.

We have managed to bring our expenditure down. This has been helped by not employing a caretaker.

The cleaning of the Church, the maintenance of the gardens and the overall running of the place is being undertaken by a band of willing helpers to maintain the high standards that we all expect.

We are forever grateful to all the volunteers who have stepped up to the mark to help out in various ways.

Once again I am on my old hobbyhorse in that you can all help by supporting the cafe and the coffee mornings. It is a sad reflection that if it was not for the G.A. members using the Saturday coffee mornings it might not prove to be viable. Please come along and swell the coffers.

John Horn
Treasurer

Stamp Appeal

We are still collecting old stamps for the Fife Society for the Blind and World Mission. If you have any old stamps lying around it would be appreciated if you could drop them off to us at the Church.



*Invites,
Requests &
Updates***Café St Clair**

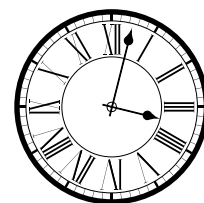
Denise, Caroline and Heather, the kitchen staff of Café St Clair, would like to extend a warm invitation to all members of the congregation to come and sample one of the delicious meals on offer from Tuesdays to Fridays. Soups, main courses (smaller portions if required), sweets and snacks are available in pleasant surroundings served by daily teams of volunteers.. The prices are extremely reasonable and every meal eaten helps the finances of Pathhead Parish Church. We have some very regular customers and would like to welcome more. Why not come at least once and give us a try?

Save the Day - Summer Church Fair

Our Summer Church Fair will take place on Saturday 2nd June in our Church Hall.

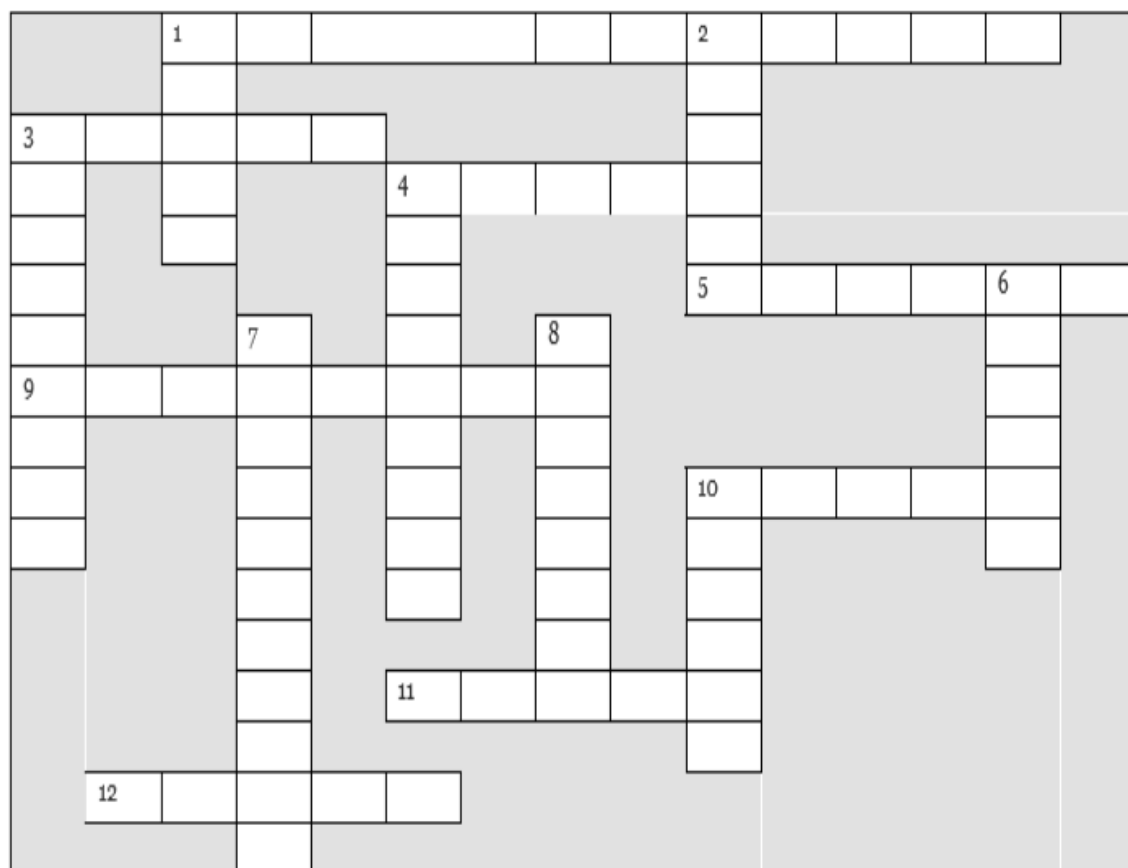
British Summer

Please note British Summer time begins on Sunday 25 March 2018. Remember to put your clocks forward.



Easter Crossword

Crossword



Clues

Across

1. Jesus rising from the dead is called the:
3. The Son of God
4. The _____ sings the Alleluia
5. The place to which Jesus ascended
9. Chant or song meaning "Praise God"
10. Book that tells the story of Jesus
11. Number of days before Jesus rose from the dead
12. Jesus was nailed to a _____

Down

1. "He is _____."
2. Building for prayer and services
3. The city where Jesus was crucified
4. The bread and wine, at church
6. The holiday celebrating Jesus' ascension
7. Easter is a _____ of Christ
8. The Jewish feast celebrated during the Last Supper
10. Faith