



Springtime

Pathhead Parish Church Newsletter 2016

The healing ministry given through prayer

The Dear Friends

There is a BlogSpot on the internet which I often visit. [For the uninitiated, a BlogSpot is just a page where people can share their thoughts and reflections.] This particular BlogSpot is called, *Concord Pastor* and I highly recommend it to everyone. It is filled with many wonderful prayers, thoughts and reflections which often provide my daily devotion. However, a few days ago I was shocked to read the following announcement from the author, "My turn to ask for your prayers. On Friday of this week I'll be having bariatric (weight loss) surgery. I'll be in the hospital for about two days and then recuperating at home for up to two weeks." Thankfully, a few days later I was able to read, "My surgery went very well on Friday and I was discharged from the hospital on Sunday afternoon - I'm home now getting rest and building up my strength. So many are asking how they can help me. Truly, my needs are very simple right now: rest and fluids!"

It was a reminder to me of how, surgery - even the prospect of surgery - can be a life-changing event. Our priorities are entirely rearranged and we realise what is truly valuable in life – not money, status or power but rather love, family, friendship and faith.

My thoughts turn to those who have had major operations in recent days. People who have faced challenging times and are now, by God's grace, on the mend. For sure, surgery is a life-changing event but it can also remind us that its purpose is to bring about recovery, healing, restoration and wholeness. At special times in our lives, God's hand can be upon us, to bring recovery through the skills of doctors, nurses and medical practitioners. These are His frontline troops in the battle for healing, health and wholeness.

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*The healing
ministry given
through prayer*

Pastoral Care
Team

The late Revd. J. Cameron Peddie, who wrote the book, “The Forgotten Talent, God’s Ministry of Healing” describes doctors as “God’s allies”. We do well to honour everyone who devotes their lives to work in hospitals or medical research - without them there would be so much more pain, suffering and sorrow. We must also recognise everyone’s need, including medical professionals, to have a healthy balance between working life and personal life.

In our Christian life, let us be eternally thankful for the ministry of healing given to us through the power of prayer. For when we call upon the assistance of Jesus, we know that while we may be in the hands of doctors and nurses, we are also in the hands of the Almighty. When we seek healing through prayer, it is not just the surgeon who places His hands upon us. It is also Jesus the Divine healer.

What a comfort it is for people facing surgery, or who are recovering in hospital or at home to know that they are in our prayers. Never tire of using such a God-given gift.

Your friend and minister,
Andrew Donald.

Pastoral Care Team

Pathhead has a small but dedicated team of visitors, people who are willing to give approximately two hours of their time each month to visit someone who, for whatever reason, cannot take part anymore in Church life. The service these people provide is very worthwhile and much appreciated by the folk who receive it. It would be wonderful if more people who are more or less house-bound could have a Church visitor but that means recruiting a few more folk who feel they have the time and the necessary talent required, that being the ability to listen and to chat.

If anyone feels this is something he/she can do (men can be visitors too), please speak to the Minister, the Session Clerk or Margaret Horn.



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 those who receive them.

December 2015

- 6th. Mrs A Brown, Mr & Mrs A Hugh & Family
- 13th. Mr & Mrs D Campbell
- 20th. Mr & Mrs T Simpson
- 27th. Mrs. M Balfour & Family

January 2016

- 3rd. Flower Box
- 10th. Miss E Brown
- 17th. Mr & Mrs G Johnston
Mrs E Paterson
- 24th. Mrs A Scott
Mrs S Welensky
- 31st. Flower Box

February 2016

- 7th. Flower Box
- 14th. Flower Box
- 21st. Mr & Mrs A McLean
- 28th. Flower Box

Thank you to all who arrange the flowers in the Church and deliver them each Sunday.

Pathhead News

A Canal Life for Me

As many of you know I have not been in Church for about 6 months of each of the past two years. This is because Tony and I now have a narrow boat which is on the canals of England and I come home in the winter but Tony stays on the boat. We first started holidaying on the canals in 1979 and hired various boats over the years, the children joining in when they were old enough, Kenneth was only 4 when we had our first family holiday. It became very much part of life to hire a boat for 1-2 weeks and relax at a maximum of 4 miles per hour.



After Mum died, and as Tony was retired, we decided to look at buying a boat of our own which turned into having one built in 2013-14. 'Paws 4 Thought' was launched in April 2014 and we have had two wonderful summers exploring various canals. With no time restraints it is possible not to move if it is raining and only move for as long or short a period each day as the fancy takes us.

We have become members of the 'Boaters Christian Fellowship' which gives us a floating church family as well as the one in Pathhead. We meet at various boating festivals, the Sunday service being held in the beer tent, and it is part of life to stop and chat when we meet another member anywhere on the canaling system. The churches near the canals are always friendly to visitors and we can be in a different church each Sunday, we are finding the Methodist service the nearest to a normal Church of Scotland.

Last Easter we spent a lovely weekend with 11 other BCF boats and their crews at various churches in the Tamworth area enjoying the fellowship and participating in a range of services from an open air in Tamworth to Sunday morning in Polesworth Abbey. In September there was a BBQ weekend in the large garden of members who have a canal side house.

So far we have travelled many miles from our base just outside Tamworth to London, Sharpness to Ellesmere Port and Wales but at present we do not know where we are heading this summer. Where ever it is the scenery will change as we sail along and we will meet many interesting people.

Pat & Tony Collins



Family Social Committee

Christmas Concert, Wednesday, 9 December, 2015

The Committee's year came to a close on Wednesday, 9 December with an excellent concert in the Church. The East Fife Ladies Choir captivated the audience with a variety of musical scores, many with a seasonal Christmas theme. What a talented group of ladies indeed – not forgetting their accompanist and their very personable choirmaster who 'entertained' us in his own eloquent way. A big thankyou to those who braved the winter storms to support the evening. I'm pleased to report that Pathhead's funds benefited by the sum of £500.

New Year Ball, 9 January, 2016

2016 began just as 2015 had ended with another successful event – the 35th New Year Ball, held on Saturday, 9 January. Almost 100 guests, young and not so young enjoyed fine food and fine music, thanks to the culinary skills of the ladies of the Committee, and the undoubted talents of the Dave Husband Sound.and the date of the 36th Ball – Saturday, 7 January, 2017.

Charity Concert, 17 April, 2016

Why not put Sunday, 17 April, 2016 in your diary? The time – 7.30pm. The place – Pathhead Parish Church. The event – Charity Concert on behalf of the British Heart Foundation. The entertainment – 'Music from the Movies' with Kingdom Brass. Tickets, priced £6 available from Committee Members and the Church Office. This special concert has been organised as a tribute to the late Angus Pearse, a well known face in the congregation at Pathhead, and a very gifted and long-standing member of Kingdom Brass, who sadly passed away in January, 2015. The Committee hope to make the concert a memorable one in every sense. Please give us your support.

Weekend Away, 29 April – 2 May, 2016

Our trip to Beamish Open Air Museum in County Durham is fast approaching. Look out for a report in the summer edition of the Newsletter.

Ken Bellingham

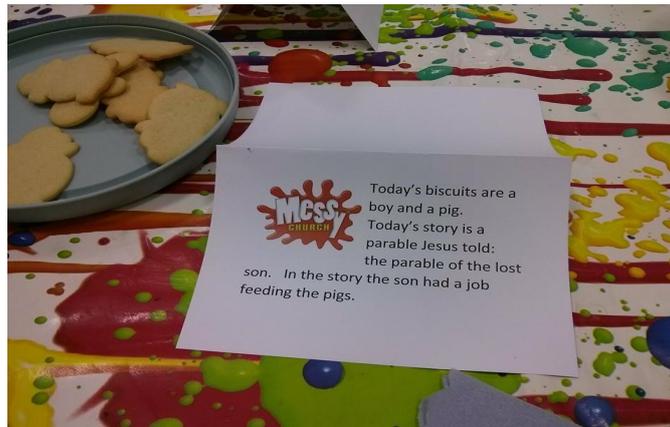
Chairman, Family Social Committee



Messy Church



From January to March Messy Church is going to be looking at the stories Jesus told to illustrate a point – the Parables. We started with the Prodigal Son – the son who left home with his share of his father's money but who soon found out that when the money ran out, so did his "friends" and he was reduced to eating the food he was feeding to the pigs. Of course, his loving father welcomed him back with open arms.



We recently carried out a short survey with parents who come along to Messy Church with their children. Some of the comments were;



"My children enjoy the arts and crafts and we all like mixing with other people"

"Brings the stories to life"

"Fun family time"

"We like doing all the art activities but our favourite is decorating cookies. We always feel very welcome and love that everyone remembers your name"

"Children enjoy crafts, songs and story and for me – peace and rest for 2 hours!"



Pathhead News

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week



Christian Aid Week this year is being held from 15-21st May and we are looking for volunteers to help with the door to door collections.

There will also be an opportunity to buy Christian Aid Coffee Morning tickets which will be held on Saturday 14th May.

If there are volunteers who would like to help on the day, please let Elizabeth or Diana know. We are always very appreciative of any baking donations received and any offers of help. If you can help either with collections or at coffee morning please let us know. Thank you in advance

Elizabeth Duncan and Diana Steedman

Treasurer's Report

The past year has seen an increase in our income overall and also a drop in our expenditure. Unfortunately we have still recorded a loss but a significantly smaller loss than last year. Things are likely to be even tighter this year as we have now lost the income from the Tribunal Services indefinitely as they have moved to other premises.

Income - The most significant drop in income has come from our givings and the Tribunal Service. Fortunately we have managed to increase our income slightly by renting the use of our premises to other organisations.

Expenditure - The biggest drop in our expenditure can be seen in the Ministries and Mission outlay but this is offset by the donations to Kart and Outreach. The increases in expenditure are mainly due to increased running costs. Again we still have to be vigilant in the use of gas and electricity as these bills continue to increase. With your help we will endeavour to make 2016 an improvement on 2015.

John Horn
Treasurer



Ordination

James and Susan were ordained as Church of Scotland ministers at the same "beautiful and moving" service on Saturday 23rd February. They were welcomed in to the Presbytery of Ross at Knordockbain Church in Munloch near Inverness. They are both thrilled on embarking on a new adventure together.



James said: "This afternoon was a joy filled occasion, full of love and warmth.

The Rev James Bissett and the Rev Susan Cord

Susan will lead the linked charge of Killearnan and Knockbain churches as a Minister of Word and Sacrament while James is an Ordained Local Minister who will work directly for the presbytery on a part-time, voluntary basis while continuing to study at Highland Theological College in Dingwall. The couple will live in the manse attached to Susan's charge with their two gerbils, Caper and Caillie.

KART Fundraising Coffee Morning - Saturday 19 March

Come and join us in March for coffee and home baking to raise funds for KART's work with children and young people in the Kirkcaldy area.

On Saturday 19 March we will be holding a coffee morning to support the work of the Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust. KART's youth worker, Chris Beattie, works with a number of schools in the area, taking classes, leading assemblies, and running school clubs. In our own area, Chris runs a football coaching group in Pathhead Primary and a Scripture Union group in Viewforth High School. All of this work is with the aim of introducing children and young people to the Christian faith.

Our church already provides financial support to KART, and so this coffee morning will be an opportunity to build on that support and give a further boost to KART's important work. Tickets will be priced £2 and will be available after the service on Sundays in March and on the day itself. If you would like to donate any home baking please contact Neill or Jacqueline Mitchell or Tracey Graham.



Prayer Corner

Concord Pastor

Concord Pastor Blogspot

<http://concordpastor.blogspot.co.uk/>

Good morning, good God!

Every Sunday my parish prays:
For a spirit of generosity in the hearts of us
who have more than we need...

Well, I have so much more than I need, Lord!
I have too much stuff..
I have too many things..
I have things I've forgotten I have..
I have things I can't find
because they're buried under
all the things I have!
I have too many old things
and too many new things..
I collect things I don't need..
I have too many clothes
(too many that fit
and too many that don't)..
I have too much money...

Ah! The money thing helps me define this, Lord:
it's not so much that I have a lot of money - I don't -
but when I look around at the rest of the world,
I know I have more money than I need...

In fact, when I look around,
I see that I have more than I need
of just about everything I have...

That's the hard question, Lord:
how much of anything do I really need...?
When I'm honest about that
I know I have more than I need...

I'm not going to offer you all my stuff, Lord,
all of my things because I know you don't need them or want them!

But this Lent I ask you to help me give up:
my desire to have more and more..
my desire to have more than I need...

Prayer Corner

Concord Pastor

my desire for collecting things
- for the sake of collecting them...
my desire to have more for the sake of having more...
my desire to have more than others have...
my desire to buy, to have and to own
the biggest, the smallest, the fastest, the newest,
the sleekest, the priciest - whatever!

I offer for your mercy and healing my desire to have:
full shelves, full closets, full bank accounts,
a full tank, a full stomach
and boxes full of whatever I want
or might want
or think I want
or have been told that I should want...

I offer for your mercy and healing my tendency
to stuff and clutter my mind and heart,
to load my imagination with junk, with filler, with crap,
with so much less than my heart deserves,
so much less than my mind deserves,
and with so much less than you deserve, Lord,
you who make your home in my heart...

I offer for your mercy and healing my complicity
in filling my heart with anything other
than the grace, peace, truth and beauty,
the lasting treasures,
for which my heart was made...

Help me to simplify my life this Lent, Lord...

Help me to give up, give away,
clean out, cast off, go without,
do without, strip away,
and just generally lighten the load:
to empty my heart of anything
that doesn't fill it as it deserves to be filled,
as it longs to be filled,
as you would fill it...

And make me generous, Lord,
in sharing and giving to others whatever I have
and for which they have a much greater need...

Such is my heart's offering this morning, Lord
and through these holy days and nights of Lent...

Amen.



Prayer Corner

God Created Mothers!

God Created Mothers!

When the good Lord was creating mothers he was into is 6th day of overtime. when an angel appeared and said “You’re doing a lot of fiddling around on this one” and the Lord said, “Have you read the specifications on this order? She has to be completely washable but not plastic – have 180 movable parts, all replaceable – run on black coffee and left-overs – have a lap that disappears when she stands up – a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair – and six pairs of hands”.The angel shook her head slowly and said “Six pairs of hands? No way”.

“It’s not the hands that are causing me problems” said the Lord, “It’s the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have.”

“That’s on the standard model?” asked the angel. The Lord nodded. “One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, “What are the children doing in there?” when she already knows. Another in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn’t but what she has to know and of course, the one in front that can look at a child when he gets himself into trouble and say “I understand and love you” without so much as uttering a word.

“Lord”, said the angel touching His sleeve gently, “go to bed. Tomorrow is another “ “I can’t” said the Lord. “I’m so close now. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick, can feed a family on 6 on 1lb of mince and can get a 9 year old to have a bath”.

The angel circled the model of the mother very slowly, “It’s too soft” she sighed. “But tough” said the Lord excitedly. “You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure”. “Can it think?” “Not only think but it can reason and compromise” said the Lord. Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek.

“There’s a leak” said the angel.

“It’s a tear”.

“What’s it for?” “It’s for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride”, “you are a genius” said the angel.

The Lord looked sombre, “I didn’t put it there.” He said



Café St. Clair & Outreach Update

Café St. Clair and Outreach Update

It will be ten years this October since the new venture of a Café and delivering meals to the housebound started. Some of the original volunteers are still giving of their service and I would like to thank them for their dedication.

There have been many changes over the years in funding for this venture. We have had the withdrawal of training for long-term unemployed and the money it generated. Funding from Day Centres for meal deliveries was also withdrawn. We still function thanks to the support of all those who attend the Café.

We are presently trying hard to reduce food waste as a means of helping the environment and are also serving smaller portions which some people admit is what they require. Smaller portions cost less and effectively save money on food which would have previously been left on the plate and then binned. Any form of saving is good for the Café.

Sadly at the end of 2015 we heard of the death of Ann Carr, one of the original cooks in the new venture who, along with Jackie Paton saw us through all the teething troubles and the problems associated with training long-term unemployed. She managed to keep calm and soldier on. Among her other attributes Ann enjoyed rambling and writing poetry about her escapades. She was also fanatical about F1 motor racing. Ann retired in 2011 from Pathhead but returned to help at the Ball. Many folk associated with Café St. Clair attended the funeral service; she was appreciated by many people.

Maureen E. Paterson

