

Messy Church

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Messy Church continues to meet on the last Sunday of every month. Children and their parents have fun with all the arts and crafts which are on offer. An important aspect of the afternoon is the time of celebration where there is singing, story time and a time for shared prayer. For the months ahead we are looking at the parables of Jesus and what they mean for us today. Children



have fun exploring the issues and importantly this is shared with parents. We also enjoy a time of fellowship when we share cakes, coffee and juice together.

Some of the parents shared their feelings about the afternoons together.

"My children love the arts and crafts and socialising with other children"

"We always feel very welcome and love that everyone remembers our name"

"My children enjoy crafts, songs and the story – and for me – peace and rest for two hours"



"Brings Bible stories to life"

"A nice welcoming atmosphere"

The team enjoy the afternoons as well although it is hard work. Thanks has to be given to this group of people who give of their time and energy to make the afternoons such a success. If anyone would like to join us either to help or just to see what happens, please come along at 2 pm on the last Sunday of each month.



Summertime

Pathhead Parish Church - Summer Newsletter

Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer!

Dear Friends

I write this summer article feeling that summer has not yet really arrived. The last days of April brought snow to Kirkcaldy and the scene outside our windows looked more like Christmas than summer! May arrived and its early days were only a little warmer than the previous month but not enough to discard our winter jackets! It was amusing to notice while shaking hands at the church door that many of our members were still wearing their gloves in readiness for the chilly walk home. Of course we live in hope of warm, bright and sunny days because they are a tonic for body, mind and spirit.

The sun makes the crops grow, the flowers bloom and the birds sing. Around this time of year we are woken with the dawn chorus announcing that a new day has dawned and God has granted us the blessing of a new day with all its promise, all its challenge and all its wonder. Especially in summer days there are opportunities to step back from the hectic pace of daily life. Some will inevitably venture into the garden to cut the grass, tidy the flower beds and dig out the weeds. In the rhythm of that work the mind has time to pause and ponder and reflect. Of course at such times much that flits into the mind is inevitably trivial, random and even unconnected. However, I like to imagine that it is the mind's own way of reorganising itself, sifting out what is unimportant from what is valuable and worthwhile.

While sitting on a garden bench basking in the sunshine we might remember an appointment we might otherwise have forgot, we might recall an important conversation we want to follow-up, we might rediscover a sense of perspective in relation to the things that bring us worry, we might reduce levels of stress that squeeze the joy out of life.

In worship, we sometimes sing Psalm 113 verse 3, "From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised." It is a timely reminder that the first duty God requires of us is also a delight.

From the first ray of sunshine that hits the back of our eye at dawn we can and must praise the name of the Lord. Or in the more eloquent words of Psalm 118, verse 24, "This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." This affirms the essential goodness of each new day as God's special gift to us (even when the sun doesn't shine!).

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Pathhead News

Flowers

It is true that life can be very challenging and even depressing at times. We can get bogged down by pressures at work and pressures at home. We can find ourselves overwhelmed with concerns about money, or health, or our future. But Jesus has told us that he came to bring "life in all its fullness". A living relationship with Jesus helps us to rediscover the truly valuable things in life. For didn't Jesus say to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? He goes on to say, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." So roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer and let's praise His name all day long!

Your friend and minister.

Andrew Donald.

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.

March 2016	April 2016
6th. Flower Box	3rd. Mr. & Mrs. T. Simpson,
13th. Mr. D. Todd	Miss. E. Brown
20th. Mrs. A. Mitchell	10th. Anon. Donation,
27th. Flower Box	Mrs. M. Wiley
	17th. Flower Box
	24th. Flower Box

May 2016	
1st. Flower Box	
8th. Mrs. C. Hunter, Mrs. A. Brown & Mr. & Mrs. A. Hugh & Family	
15th. Flower Box	
22nd. Flower Box	
29th. Flower Box	

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

Pathhead News

Church Census

Scottish Church Census 2015

If you were in Church on 8 May you will be aware that the Census took place during the service. The figures show what we already know; that we are an ageing congregation with only a small number of children although had this taken place on a Messy Church Sunday it would have given a very different picture as there would have been around 35 children and their parents included. However, we have to remember that statistics don't tell us everything because we have a strong congregation of committed Christians who attend Sunday by Sunday. The statistics below reflect the 103 who attending on the day

Age	5-11	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-85	85 +
Male	1		3	2	9	17	5
Female	4	1	3	5	17	20	16

Attendance at Church weekly - 86, fortnightly - 14, monthly - 3

Length of time people have been attending Pathhead Church:
Under 3 yrs – 5, 3-5 yrs – 1, 6-10 yrs – 15, 11-20 yrs – 19, over 20 yrs – 63

As I said, statistics don't give the whole picture so I have included here some of the comments from a small questionnaire I invited some people to make a few months ago. I think these give us food for thought.

"I enjoy attending because for me it is an uplifting way to start the week and it gives me a sense of peace and helps me get everything into perspective."

"Services are meaningful and comforting, and the congregation have been welcoming and friendly"

"There is a tremendous fellowship in Pathhead"

"I always get a message to contemplate – I never go home with a heavy heart."

"Becoming a member of Pathhead Church was one of the best decisions I have ever made."

"I hope the spirit of the church and its members continues to make people welcome and active in these challenging times."

Anne Deas, Session Clerk

Pathhead News

Family Social
Committee

Easyfundraising

Despite crossing the Forth Road Bridge in torrential rain, our arrival at Kirkcaldy shortly after five o'clock, was greeted with.....you've guessed it, bright sunshine!!

My thanks to our coach driver Andrew of AT Travel, Edinburgh for his undoubted driving and navigational skills, to Glenda at AT for her assistance in the organisation of our itinerary, to members of the Family Social Committee, to John W. and Aileen for their unique onboard 'entertainment', to our guest travellers 'Jack and Victor', alias Sandy and Gordon, for their special brand of entertainment, and as ever, to Emma for keeping us all well stocked up with sweeties throughout the weekend.

Ken Bellingham
Chairman, Family Social Committee

Easyfundraising



Our easyfundraising campaign has raised over £55 to date. Thank you to everyone who has signed up and helped us raise this.

More and more retailers are signing up and some of them give up to 7% back of your spend in donations. There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. Join

Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/pathheadchurch/> and sign up for free.

2. Shop

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

3. Raise

After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

Pathhead News

Family Register

Family Register

Deaths: Jesus said, 'Because I live, you will live also'

Mrs Edith Diston,
Gowrie House, Kirkcaldy.....15th April 2016

Mrs Betty Gray,
Mid Street, Kirkcaldy..... 26 April 2016



Sacrament of Baptism

Paula Civelek,
123 Oswald Road, Kirkcaldy
William Civelek,
123 Oswald Road, Kirkcaldy
Campbell Morris,
Strathallan Drive, Kirkcaldy

New Members

Ms Paula Civelek,
Oswald Road, Kirkcaldy
by Profession of Faith

Ms Monica Anderson,
Strathallan Drive, Kirkcaldy
by Profession of Faith

Summer Fair

Summer Fair



**PATHHEAD PARISH CHURCH
KIRKCALDY**

SUMMER FAIR

Saturday, 4th June 2016

2.00 p.m.

Church Halls, Harriet Street, Kirkcaldy

Thanks as always go to the enthusiastic helpers who all work extremely hard to make, bake and prepare for the Summer Fair. A further thanks to all those who donate goods and cash to the various stalls.

**CAN YOU HELP?
CAN YOU DONATE?
CAN YOU ATTEND?**

Anyone who is willing to help please contact one of the stall holders listed overleaf or contact Tracey Graham on 01592 204635.

Donations of cash or goods/articles for any of the stalls may be handed in on the Friday evening or Saturday morning prior to the Fair.

Pathhead News

Family Social Committee

Disappointingly the wet weather returned on the Sunday, however Alison Davidson brightened our day with a wonderfully thoughtful and uplifting time of reflection. Jelly babies will never quite be the same again! On our arrival at Beamish Open Air Museum, where the Family Social Committee had last visited in 2001, we were back to wet weather clothing and umbrellas. Fortunately, after a short time, the rain eased off and the sun shone for the remainder of the day.

Beamish, 'The Living Museum of the North' continues to fascinate, and is rightly recognised as the North East's Large Visitor Attraction of the Year 2014 & 2015. It's 350 acre site boasts an 1820's Manor House, a 1900's Town, a 1900's Pit Village complete with mine, a 1940's Farm, Tramcars, Horse-drawn Carriages and much, much more. Plans have even been approved to construct a town of the 1950's at a cost of £15M, with the National Lottery pledging £10M. The Beamish Trustees are attempting to raise the remaining £5M, and hopefully the Pathhead visitors will have played their part in boosting the funds necessary to complete this ambitious project. Our five hour visit flew past, however Beamish certainly lived up to it's motto, 'Be Amazed, Be Inspired, Be Part of History.'



Monday morning saw us bid farewell to the Gibside Hotel and its wonderful staff. Our journey north through Border country let us stop off at Peebles for a lovely soup and sandwich lunch at the Green Tree Hotel, and some free time for shopping.

Pathhead News

Family Social Committee

On our arrival at the Best Western Gibside Hotel, Whickham, near Newcastle late afternoon, we were given a very warm welcome, and such 'Geordie' hospitality continued throughout our weekend stay. Accommodation and facilities were excellent, as were the meals and service overall.

Blue skies and sunshine greeted us on the Saturday morning as we set off for the National Glass Centre, Sunderland some 20 miles away. Part of the University of Sunderland, the Centre, a modern open-plan building of mainly glass and steel construction in the former dockland area, boasts exhibition and demonstration areas, a café and a variety of meeting rooms. Although many enjoyed the facilities on site, others took advantage of the warm sunshine and the walkway linking the Centre with the nearby yachting marina. A glass-blowing demonstration at 12 noon, when the skills of local craftsmen were amply demonstrated, rounded off a most enjoyable and interesting visit.

The afternoon was taken up with a short cruise on the River Wear at Durham on board the MV Prince Bishop, which allowed us to see the sights of this bustling university town from a slightly different perspective, particularly the Cathedral, founded in AD1093. The remainder of our time in Durham afforded the opportunity to engage in some retail therapy, although others simply took advantage of the many coffee shops and cafes on offer.

Those who were on the trip are well aware that we had one (or maybe more than one!) of our own angels with us, and a brief stop at the world famous 'Angel of the North' at Gateshead, (erected in 1998 on the site of former colliery pithead baths), on our return journey to our hotel, was a very appropriate way to end our day.



Pathhead News

Finance Update

Gardener's Corner Keeps Growing

Finance Update

Thank you to all the loyal "givers" for your offerings and to all those who have responded to various appeals throughout the year. The constant flow of offerings really does make a difference especially over the summer months when things are quieter around the Church. The outgoings however certainly don't seem less! I am also grateful to the ever-increasing band of members who give "tax efficiently". The number of members participating in "Gift Aid" seems to grow every year and our income tax reclaim figure for the General Fund in 2015 was £15,027. Anyone who would like more information about Gift Aid should simply contact myself.



John Horn
Treasurer

Gardeners' Corner

The Garden Team Grows

With the addition of our new member Gordon Suttie at the start of the season the Garden Team has grown to five in number.



At the beginning of April, trees have been trimmed, fences repaired and painted, grass cut and flower seeds sown.

This year the garden theme will be "Butterfly & Bee Friendly". The Garden Team meet every Monday morning from April to November (weather permitting). New members to the team are welcome, so come along for a bit of light gardening that lasts no more than a couple of hours, a cup of tea and a blether.



Holiday Club

Space Academy

Holiday Club - Space Academy



Pathhead Holiday Club: Monday 4 - Friday 8 July

We are planning to hold another holiday club for primary school age children this summer. It will run every morning from Monday 4 - Friday 8 July and this year will have a space theme - it's called Space Academy. As always our holiday club can only go ahead if we have enough people involved in the team, not just helping with the children, but also in many other practical ways too. If you are free during that week in July and would like to help with the club (or would just like to find out more about what's involved), please speak to one of the planning team: Neill and Jacqueline Mitchell, Anne Deas, Margaret Horn, Gordon Cox and May Snaddon.

Family Social Committee

Charity Concert

May Weekend Away

Family Social Committee

Charity Concert, Sunday, 17 April, 2016 – British Heart Foundation

The above concert, held in the Church during the evening of Sunday, 17 April, 2016 was a great success, and I wish to express my appreciation to members of the congregation and others, who came along or gave a monetary donation. Thanks to the generosity of Kingdom Brass who waived their usual attendance fee, the entire proceeds of the concert, £1,064 have been forwarded to the British Heart Foundation.

The audience enjoyed a varied programme which included many old favourites, eg The Dambusters, Star Wars, Dances with Wolves, Les Mis and Superman to name but a few, and Willie Sandell, Vice Chairman of Kingdom Brass, gave a very personal and sincere tribute to the late Angus Pearse, a member of our congregation and a very gifted musician who passed away in January, 2015.

All in all, a very enjoyable and successful evening.

Weekend Away, Durham, Beamish etc, Friday, 29 April – Monday, 2 May, 2016

Although we were due to leave Kirkcaldy on the Friday morning, the excitement really started on the Thursday evening when Kirkcaldy was hit by blizzard conditions, leaving Pathhead and other areas of the town covered in 2-3 inches of snow. Thankfully, by the Friday morning the snow had all but disappeared, and our party of forty members and friends got away on time.

Travelling south on the M74 motorway, we encountered rain, hail and sleet, however we were fortunate enough not to experience any of the snow that had fallen on the nearby hills. Our first stop at the Cressfield Hotel, Ecclefechan saw us enjoy tea, coffee and freshly baked scones away from the bitterly cold west wind. A short visit to the market town of Hexham in Northumberland thereafter, allowed us to break our journey from west to east, when some of our party took the chance to visit the 16th century Abbey.