

NATIVITY WORD SEARCH



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V W F R A N K I N C E N S E G
R D A V I D M E H E L H T E B

NATIVITY
MARY
JOSEPH
JESUS
MANGER
SHEPHERD
STAR
DAVID
INN
DONKEY
HAY
BETHLEHEM
JOURNEY
ANGEL
WISE
FRANKINCENSE
MYRRH
SHEEP
CAMEL

Merry
Christmas

O HOLY NIGHT

The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

Pathhead Parish Church

Winter Newsletter - December 2017

Christmas Letter from the Manse

Dear friends

As we approach the celebration of the birth of our Saviour I have been reflecting on the importance of shared pilgrimage. When the Magi first discovered the star in the east, I imagine that it took time for them to reflect on its significance, perhaps individually and then collectively. I don't believe they were given a flash of revelatory knowledge but a spark of understanding which led them to make further investigation. I do believe they scrutinised their sacred texts to ensure they were not embarking on a wild-goose chase. For only the foolish would embark on such a long and perhaps dangerous trek on a whim. Travelling together served more than one purpose. It was good for protection, companionship and shared reflection... If the star was a sign of royalty, which royal lineage was it honouring? They would pass many tribal lands on their journey westwards. Was the sign a hopeful one, or was it a portent of doom? Even if their collective wisdom proved right, was it really so important to see this king with their own eyes?

Isn't it a truth that we gain so much by travelling together and sharing one another's wisdom? It was Robert Louis Stevenson who wrote, "To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive." We live in a society obsessed with arriving at the destination before we have done the travelling and the reflecting. Secular society now wants Christmas to begin in late November but God doesn't work that way. He wants us to find its value in the steady rhythm of the journey, in the sometimes mundane tasks set before us. For the magi, the journey to Bethlehem involved crossing desert planes, steep inclines and rocky places. It involved scorching days of heat, and bitterly cold starry nights. From different cultures and perhaps different languages these individuals (we don't know how many) were brought together with a common cause to find a child so unique that he was worth risking everything in that quest.

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Important Dates

Christmas Fair
2 December 2017

New Year Ball
13 January 2018

Quiet moments of reflection can be a rarity, even in church circles. As the Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther observed, it's an easy trap to lose sight of being justified by faith. Burying ourselves in work or busyness is a temptation. Being quiet before God can be a scary thing. We might learn things about ourselves we would rather ignore. We might discover that our world-view needs its own mini-reformation. We might evaluate our life and realise that we need to modify priorities, ditch unnecessary baggage, embrace a simpler Christmas. We might discover that we have become uncomfortable with God's seeming silence, or His still small voice.

The period we know as Advent, is a time to be still before God. Lest we forget that Advent is not about calendars filled with chocolates, gin or novelty trinkets, let's reclaim this season for the deep-thinkers, the meditators and the quietly-expectant Christians. We do this, not out of any sense of superiority, for that is a trap in itself. We do this out of necessity for ourselves, to see life in its proper perspective, to travel to Bethlehem, to have a few precious moments in the company of our Saviour before we travel home by a different road.

God's peace to you this Christmas and always.

Your fellow pilgrim,

Andrew Donald.

Garden Team - 2017

The Garden Team have finished garden activities for the season and will be back in the garden mid March next year.

During the course of the season as well as maintaining the garden the team have also cleared rhones, drains and done some much needed painting.

The team is looking forward to next season and would welcome new team members for next season. Anyone interested please speak with any member of the gardening team - Gordon Cox, Gordon Suttie, Dave Stewart and Diana Steedman.



Messy Church Christmas 2017



Come and join us for our Messy Church Christmas
Celebration at Pathhead Parish Church on
Sunday 10 December from 2—4 pm.

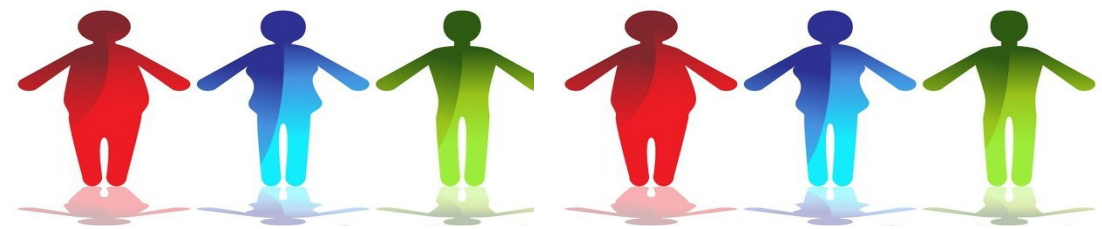
Messy Church is for all the family: children of all ages,
parents and grandparents (children must be
accompanied by an adult).

For more information:

- ✉ email pathheadmessychurch@virginmedia.com
- 📍 find us at www.facebook.com/PathheadParishChurch



**WE HAVE A NEED
YOU MAY BE THE SOLUTION!**



Either a regular one day a week commitment (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday) or on an ad hoc basis, Café St Clair needs volunteers to serve in its pleasant surroundings. Approximate timings are 11.30am till 2.00pm. Church membership or attendance is not a requirement so please show this to any of your friends who may have sometime to spare. To offer your services or to make further enquiries please contact our CHURCH OFFICE at 01592 204635.

Family Register

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

Mrs Winnie McArthur,
Abbeyfield (formerly Ravens Craig),
Kirkcaldy1 September 2017,



Flowers

The Flower Team wish to thank all who give donations for flowers which beautify the church each Sunday. The flowers are greatly appreciated by those who receive them.

September 2017

3rd.	Mrs. M. Glencross
	Mrs. M. Baillie
10th.	Mr. & Mrs. Conde
17th.	Mr. J. Cain & Family
24th.	Mrs. Goodfellow & Family

October 2017

1st.	Mr. & Mrs. A. McLean
8th.	Mr. & Mrs. G. Johnstone
15th.	Mrs. J. Page
22nd.	Miss. E. Brown
29th.	Flower Box

November 2017

5th.	Flower Box
12th.	Mr. D. Todd
19th.	The Guild
26th.	Miss. C. Hughes

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



Christmas Season at Pathhead

Sunday, 3rd December 2017

11.00 a.m. COMMUNION

Sunday, 10th December 2017

11.00 a.m. UNICEF JARS OF GRACE
& GIFT SERVICE

2.00 p.m. MESSY CHURCH
& PATHFINDERS PARTY

Thursday, 21st December 2017

6.30 p.m. CAROL SINGING FOR MAGGIES FIFE
ASDA, KIRKCALDY

Sunday, 17th December 2017

6.30 p.m. CAROL SERVICE, WILBY HOUSE
CARE HOME

Sunday, 24th December 2017

11.00 a.m. PATHFINDERS NATIVITY

6.30 p.m. FAMILY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

11.30 p.m. WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

*You are welcome to join us at any
or all of these Services*

Chris Hay -
Trainee Minister

Chris Hay

Although I have been with you all for just over a month I thought I would fill you in with a little background information!

My full name is Christine Hay though I'm rarely called anything else but Chris. Born in Manchester I moved to Sheffield to study and met my husband Mike there (though he originates from Stonehaven) when we started work.

Twenty two years ago we moved up to Glenrothes twelve weeks after the birth of our third daughter Lizzie. She is now studying for a Masters at Edinburgh University and her older sisters are working – Natalie in Children's Accident & Emergency in Aberdeen and Becca in the Civil Service in London.

I qualified as a chartered accountant but since our move to Scotland I have worked in hotel reception and bookkeeping roles – one very close to Pathhead - to enable me to be at home for the girls. As a member of St Columba's I have served as youth elder for fifteen years and treasurer and then chairperson of GROW the Glenrothes equivalent of KART.

I am now almost half way through the academic training required by the Church of Scotland for ministry and my placement at Pathhead is the third of three, previously spending 8 months at Kinghorn and the summer at Perth Prison. I am regularly both inspired and humbled by the stories I have been told by church members and fellow candidates and whilst I am often submerged with the academic workload, I feel privileged to be a part of God's plan in this part of the world.

I am enjoying meeting and getting to know you all and pray that together we may experience the wonder of the Christian message at Christmas time – "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

Here we are again nearing the end of another year. One that has been very challenging for the Church.

First of all let me wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy 2018. I would like to thank you all for your generosity in your givings and for your offerings for various good causes we have supported throughout the year.

This is also an opportunity for me to thank the many volunteers who have helped to keep the Church working very efficiently, also those volunteers who have kept the Café and the outreach running from day to day and made all of our customers feel special. Without these people we would not be able to function as a Church or an Outreach.

I would also like to invite anyone who is a tax payer to sign up for Giftaid. The Government give us 25% of your contributions at no extra cost to you. Speak to myself or Hugh McKenzie.

Lastly let me draw your attention to Easyfundraising. So far this year we have raised around £300 for the Church by this method. If you are still not aware of it here are the details. By going on to their website you can register to donate to Pathhead. Retailers included in the Easyfundraising remit are John Lewis, Amazon, M&S, Argos, Asda, Tesco, Ebay, Expedia and many more.

If you still haven't completed all of your Christmas shopping here is a chance to earn some extra money for Pathhead. It costs you nothing extra, the retailer donates the money to Pathhead.

For further information visit the Easyfundraisig website or contact the Church office (01592 204635).

John Horn
Treasurer



News from the Guild

News from the Guild

We are now halfway through the Guild year and most enjoyable it has been. There is a good sized membership, with attendance at the fortnightly meetings averaging thirty.

Speakers have been varied and interesting and with two successful fundraising ventures, namely our own Coffee Morning and a Concert (given free) by the East Fife Male Voice Choir, under our belts, we are now looking forward to the Guild Christmas Meal provided by our own hard-working cafe staff and served by a handsome team of waiters!

The programme from January to April looks to be equally interesting so why not come along some evening, as a visitor, and give it a try. You are assured of a warm, friendly welcome. The fortnightly meetings resume on Monday 8th January at 7.30pm in the St Clair Lounge with Ian Archibald speaking about Burntisland's Gifts and Treasures.

Meantime, the members of the Guild wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Good Health and Happiness in 2018.



56th Christmas Fair



Why not come along and browse the many stalls? You never know what you might find. Enjoy a warm cuppa accompanied with a choice of delicious homebaking or even an ice-cream! Santa is coming as well (Free Entry to Santa’s Grotto).

Saturday 2nd December at 2.00pm. Harriet Street Entrance. Entrance programme costs 50p and tea tickets are £2 for adults and £1 for children.

Your support would be much appreciated. Hope to see you there.

Family Social Committee

Saturday Coffee Mornings

Pastoral Care Team

Family Social Committee

New Year Ball, Saturday, 13 January, 2018

Tickets for the Ball, priced, Adults - £18; Youths - £9; Children - £5 (which should be paid in full by Sunday, 24 December) are now available.

Anne Scott,
Treasurer, FSC.

Saturday Coffee Mornings



Our last Coffee Morning for 2017 will be on Saturday 16 December. The teams thank everyone for their support and look forward to seeing them all in the new year on Saturday 20th January.

We still require one more person to be on a team. In practice this would mean being available to serve on 3 occasions between January and June. Hope you can join us then. A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Pastoral Care Team

There is a small but dedicated number of ladies who give service to the church family as pastoral care team visitors. At the moment one of these ladies is free to be assigned to someone who is housebound or in a care home and who would appreciate a church visitor. Please supply name, address and telephone number (if possible) of anyone known to you who falls into this category and every effort will be made to make them feel part of the church family. These visitors give a minimum of a visit once per month. Information to me please, Margaret Horn, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator.