



Pathhead Parish Church Summer Newsletter 2021

A Letter From The Manse

The Joys of Summer

Dear Friends

I wonder what the approach of summer signals for you? Whatever our age, I'm sure we all approach summertime with a degree of expectation. Most of us hope for those childhood summers which seemed to be days of endless sunshine, even if that wasn't entirely true. Many of us approach the summer, dazzled by the beauty all around, the contrast of bare soil transformed by flowering blossom and golden fields of grain. For those who are gardeners, thoughts turn to cultivating tomato plants, potatoes, or some other vegetable which we ourselves have cultivated. For some reason, these always seem more delicious than even the best produce bought at the local supermarket. For sure, many of our emotions of summer are slightly romanticized but, from time to time, there's little harm in wearing rose tinted spectacles.

Some memories of summer are comic in nature. Of sitting in a car parked in front of a beach with the rain lashing down and the wind blowing a gale, while family members tuck into a sandwich prepared by mum and washed down with a hot cup of tea from a thermos flask. Scots in particular, learn to make the best of summer whatever the weather. Postcards from home used to declare, "Having a lovely time here in..." whether there were dark clouds and rain for nearly a fortnight, or midges rampaging throughout the campsite, or tentpoles broken, or cars needing to go into a garage following a holiday breakdown.

The truth of the matter is that summertime is what we make of it. This year, many people will have faced the disappointment of foreign holidays cancelled. Some may even have avoided booking abroad just in case that happened, while others have opted for the staycation even if all the popular destinations are jam packed with holidaymakers. People with a thankful mindset will learn to appreciate

whatever they have, even if it's not been possible to go on holiday at all for whatever reason.

Much is made of the psychological impact of the COVID lockdown and you won't find me disagreeing with that assessment. But what I do believe sincerely, is that a grateful thankful heart can help us through the toughest of days. If it has been raining all day, give thanks for the fact that the garden may have needed the water and the farmers will have richer grain. If it's blowing a gale and you're stuck indoors, be thankful that Scotland is blessed with natural wind-power and the turbines will be producing clean energy. If the sun isn't shining, remember that you're not having to pay to buy a bottle of sunscreen!

Of course, these are all trivial examples but they remind us of what St. Paul once said when he remarked that he could give thanks whatever the circumstances. So I hope that you are blessed with a safe, healthy and happy summertime – and that whatever your circumstance, you are able to give thanks to God.

Your friend and minister,

Andrew

Happy Moments,
Praise God.
Difficult Moments,
Seek God.
Quiet Moments,
Worship God.
Painful Moments,
Trust God.
Every Moment,
Thank God.



Family Register

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

Deaths

Mrs M Lister, 66 Ravenscraig, Kirkcaldy - 2020

John Heggie, 315 Overton Mains, Kirkcaldy - April 2021

Charlotte (Lettie) Craib 81 Mid Street, Kirkcaldy - 30th April 2021

Valerie (Val) Broadley, 1a Orchard Road, Kinghorn - 4 May 21

Grace Greig, Ostler's Way Care Home, Kirkcaldy (formerly 301 Colliston Avenue, Glenrothes - 6 May 21

Mrs Jean Sinclair, Raith Manor Care Home, Kirkcaldy (previously 25 Cairngorm Crescent, Kirkcaldy) - 5 June 2021

Donations for flowers

December 2020 5th Miss E Brown

14th Mrs A Brown, Mr & Mrs A Hugh and family

18th Mrs M Balfour



During this lockdown there are a number of people who have bought and delivered flowers on my behalf. I wish to thank them most sincerely.

Sheila White

I would like to thank everyone who sent get well cards, good wishes and flowers after my hip operation. It was lovely to speak on the telephone to those who phoned and I enjoyed the visits from members of the congregation who visited me at home. The support I received during this time of recuperation made me realise how fortunate I am to have so many good friends at Pathhead.

Many thanks Alison Davidson.



Family Social Committee

Weekend Away, Friday, 29 April, 2022 – Monday, 2 May, 2022

As many will be aware, the committee's plans for our weekend away in 2020, and then 2021 had to be cancelled, however I'm pleased to report that arrangements are now in place to finally visit Llandudno, North Wales, staying at the Dunoon Hotel.

THE COMMITTEE ARE OF COURSE ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF THE COVID PANDEMIC, AND THE TRIP WILL ONLY GO AHEAD IF IT IS SAFE TO TRAVEL.

The cost of the holiday, which as in previous years is being organised by AT Travel, is £367 per person, and includes:-

Coach Travel

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Morning Coffee - Day 1

Soup/Sandwich Lunch – Day 4

Admission Charges

Gratuities

Supplements if required:-

Insurance - £18 per person

Single Room Occupancy - £36 per person

Although costs have increased slightly since our initial booking in 2019, as previously intimated, the £50 deposit per person which has already been paid, will be carried forward, ie only the balance of £317 per person will require to be paid early next year.

Effectively however, we are starting our 'booking system' afresh, therefore those wishing to go on the trip should pass their names to either Anne Scott, Treasurer, Family Social Committee, Tel. 01592 269524, e mail:- anne-angus@hotmail.co.uk or myself, Tel. 01592 652147, e mail:- kenbellingham@btinternet.com as soon as possible, and in any case by Sunday, 19 September, 2021 at the very latest.

Anyone who has not previously put their name down will be made most welcome, although a £50 deposit person, (plus insurance premium if appropriate) will require to be paid at the time of booking, (cheques only please payable to Pathhead Parish Church).

Ken Bellingham

July, 2021

Lockdown Activities



This is what my wee 93 year old mum Margaret Balfour has been doing during lockdown. These are tiny hats and blankets for the neo natal department to support tiny early babies. So proud of her!!

Kate Walker



This cross stitch has taken me some time to complete but eventually it is finished and I have plenty time to get it framed for Christmas!

Linda Hugh



Favourite Hymns

In the last Newsletter some of you shared your favourite hymns. Here are more of your favourites and why they hold a special meaning.



What a friend we have in Jesus - this has always been a family favourite (Jim and Maureen Taylor)

There is a hope that burns within my heart, that gives me strength for every passing day – This is a very new song for all of us but there are two lines in the second verse which say “Through present sufferings, future’s fear, He whispers ‘courage’ in my ear”. I feel given the uncertain times we are living in this is what I wanted to hear. (Anne Deas)



Shine Jesus Shine - We sang this in church at my son’s wedding. While it has great meaning to me, it also brings back such happy memories of a wonderful family day. (Kate Walker)



To God be the glory great things he has done. - A powerful Hymn that tells us how great God is and if we have faith, trust and belief God will be there for everyone. (Heather Henderson)



Be still for the presence of God - When we moved to Kirkcaldy I had no real plan of where I would worship on a Sunday. My first visit was to Pathhead as it was my closest. After three visits I was thinking of whether I should try anywhere else as I felt welcome and at home here. On my fourth visit, the first hymn was Be Still, and for the rest of the service there followed almost every worship song I loved. Even the reading that morning was one I had read the previous evening. I think the message was to Be Still and stay at Pathhead so I did and I am glad to still be at Pathhead. (May Snaddon)



What a friend we have in Jesus – Over the last year I have not been able to see or visit those who mean a lot to me. Talking to them on the phone is not the same as having face to face contact. This hymn reminds me that during the last year I have been able to talk to Jesus at any time, day or night, and I strongly believe he has listened to my prayers. (Alison Davidson)

*"As long as we live, there
is never enough singing."
- Martin Luther*

Zoom – an article by the Revd. Professor John Swinton of Aberdeen University

It's been an odd time for the churches as well. Once again, Zoom has come to the rescue! It has been an interesting experience doing Zoom church for the past few months. My mum is 96. She lives independently and is an avid user of her tablet. For the past few months, she and I have been regular visitors to Tarves church's Zoom service. It's been great! She has seen people she hasn't seen for months and has begun to feel a part of the church in a way she couldn't do previously because of lockdown and shielding. The problem is that she won't be able to return to physical church when things go back to "normal" and I imagine that Zoom church may well come to an end soon. That is a worry. What will she do for church? I'm sure she is not alone.

I have had some very interesting conversations with people with autism and people living with dementia who have found Zoom church to be a real blessing. There are fewer distractions, you can control the volume, you can stand up or sit down whenever you want. You can choose what and whom you want to look at and what and whom you don't want to look at. You don't have to live in terror of the congregational huggers who of course mean well but put the fear of death into some people. For many people Zoom church is a good way of doing church. And herein lies the dilemma. I hear many people saying how much they long for "real church" to get back into fellowship.

"Zoom church has been fine but it's not the same as real church." I know what they mean, but for many people virtual church during the pandemic has been a real opportunity to do church without the kinds of barriers that prevent them attending a local congregation. So, what do we do when things return to the normal rhythm? Do we just forget about the needs of those on the margins who have benefitted from doing church differently? It would be a real shame if our return to normal ended up marginalising important people within our communities.

The apostle Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 12:22 come to mind: "those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable ..." We should probably be careful. As we plan for the future, it's worth paying attention to the needs of the whole of Jesus's body in order that our love of going to church doesn't end up excluding important people. The pandemic is tragic. But there are still good things we can learn if we have ears to listen.

News from the Guild



Our three year strategy for 2018 to 2021 for our Guild Projects has come to an end. During that time the National Guild raised £520 000 a fantastic amount considering we have been in lockdown for 15 months. Our six projects were.

- The Boys Brigade: Young men have grown in faith and gained confidence by being a part of this movement within our church.
- Sailors Society: Chaplains and Guild members offered support to seafarers in our ports across Scotland.
- Malawi Fruits: helped young people to irrigate crops using solar powered pumps
- Seema Project: protecting street children in Pune in India where vulnerable children were trafficked
- Crossreach Join up the Dots: helping tackle loneliness and isolation with older people
- Journeying Together: a partnership between the Guild and World Mission Council helping teenage mothers in Zambia living in poverty

We will hear about our six new projects when we are able to meet in September. I would like to thank everyone who supported our coffee mornings and fundraising events. Without your help we would not be able to donate what we as a Guild give to our National Guild.

Alison Davidson

Messy Church



Our Messy Church has continued very successfully over the months of March, April and May via Zoom. Our March theme was based around Palm Sunday and we enjoyed making crosses, palm leaves and donkeys as well as the egg shaped scratch art. In April our focus was the Road to Emmaus when Jesus met two friends along the way. We made friendship bracelets and paper chains on which we wrote names of friends and loved ones. In May, we covered the story of Pentecost and made lanterns and spirals to represent the fire and wind in the Pentecost story. We also made some coloured bunting as Pentecost is known as the Church's birthday.

Making biscuits is a huge favourite when the children are at at Messy Church in the large hall but being on Zoom hasn't stopped that from happening ! Jacqueline included the recipe for the biscuits in the bags delivered to the families each month and the children/their parents have enjoyed making them at home. Here are some of the pictures of the activities done by the children over the last few months.



Singing is a big part of Messy Church and we now have a 'signature tune' which we sing every time we meet whether in person or via Zoom. We have also learned a couple of new songs with actions which we will definitely use once we are able to meet in person.

Although not quite the same as meeting in the large hall, we have been very successful in having quite a few families join us on Zoom each month which has been very encouraging. Hopefully, as restrictions continue to ease, we can meet in our usual way in the not too distant future.

Tracey Graham

Kirkcaldy Jungle Adventure 2021

19th June 2021



KART are hosting a one day holiday club with 5 locations to choose from - where will your adventure take you?

Calling all P1-P7 children for a one day adventure!

Each location will have our Jungle Adventure on one of the days in the week running 10-12pm and 2-4pm. Please collect your child for lunch at home.

The same programme is running each day so please book for one day.

Please note: There are only 22 places for children on each of the days.

Locations:

- Pathhead/Dysart Area, Monday 2nd August
- Kirkcaldy and Dysart FC Training pitch, Tuesday 3rd August
- Newcraigs Evangelical Church, Wednesday 4th August
- Beveridge Park Area, Thursday 5th August
- Kinghorn Parish Church, Friday 6th August



Further details via the [Booking Form](#)

Church of Scotland

The Moderator of the General Assembly welcomed the “constructive” talks he had this week (25th June) with political party leaders about the need for a collaborative approach to tackling some of the most pressing issues facing society.



Lord Wallace said they were in common agreement that the climate crisis, mental health, adult social care reforms and how the country recovers from COVID-19 are top priorities that must be addressed.

May the sun

bring you new energy by day.

May the moon

softly restore you by night.

May the rain

wash away your worries.

May the breeze

blow new strength into your being.

May you walk

gently through the world and know
its beauty all the days of your life.

-Apache Blessing-