

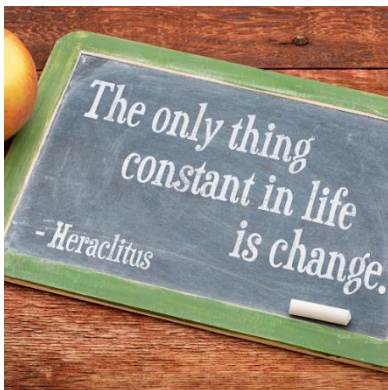
Pathhead Parish Church

Winter Newsletter 2021

A Letter From The Manse

Dear Friends

For sure, we are living through strange times. For now, the normal routines of life are not quite what they used to be. We are still having to live with certain limitations placed upon us. In the life of the Kirk (as you will read in this edition) this has involved the difficult decision not to hold a Christmas Fair and a New Year Ball. If we obtain permission from the Health Visitors, we still plan to have a Gift Service linked with the annual UNICEF Appeal but the Jars of Grace will have to take a different format. Apart from the fact that most of us are no longer using small coins on a day-to-day basis, we must adapt to the new realities presented by COVID. So, this year the annual Jars of Grace appeal will be in the form of a special envelope collection which we hope everyone will support just as fully.



Much of this year has been learning to adapt to changed circumstances and this is true for our own Presbytery which has now been linked with St. Andrews and Dunfermline to become the Presbytery of Fife. Frightening national statistics made one of its first tasks a difficult one.

From 1st June 2021 vacancies and readjustments processed may proceed only with approval of both Presbytery and the Faith Nurture Forum and will be subject to being classified as “Reviewable Charges”. All current Presbytery Plans are suspended while every Presbytery seeks to reduce its ministry posts. Fife Presbytery has been allocated a total of 44.5 Full Time Equivalent ministry posts. These posts can be a combination of Ministers of Word & Sacrament and Ministries Development Staff (including Deacons). This new allocated number is a reduction from our current planned number of 55.5, and an historic allocated number of 68.1 in 2011.

A similar review is taking place with regard to Church buildings. A decision made at the General Assembly means that all buildings within Presbyteries are being reviewed with the aim of having only buildings which are well-equipped, in the right place and fit for mission in the 21st century. Understandably, this will lead to uncertainty for all congregations but taken with the understanding that the status quo was no longer possible or desirable.

While all this adjustment is taking place, there is still much to be done in serving the Lord in our parish and beyond. Recently, I had the pleasure of congratulating the Guild on reaching its 125th anniversary and soon the minds of the Kirk Session will turn its attention to celebrating the bicentenary of our congregation in 2023.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued support of our church and its many forms of mission, service and outreach. May God keep you safe as we move from autumn to winter celebrations and the birth of the One who changed our world forever.

Your friend and minister,

Andrew Donald



Flower Group

‘God is in all creatures, even in the smallest flowers.’

Donations received

5th September

Mrs R Curan

29th October

The Guild

28th November

Mrs P Collins

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the Flower Fund. The flower team continue to place flowers in the chancel each Sunday which are then distributed to members of the congregation.

Sheila White

Family Register

Jesus said, ‘Because I live, you will live also’

Miss Wilma Forret, 3 Roseberry Court, Kirkcaldy – 17 July 2021

Mrs Marilyn McMillan, Dalgety Bay Care Home (previously Ravenscraig, Kirkcaldy) – 26 July 2021

Mrs Nan Jackson c/o 15 Glengarry Court, Glenrothes – August 2021

Mrs June Wright, 187 Overton Mains, Kirkcaldy – 9 August 2021

Mr Alex McLean, 9 Viewforth Avenue, Kirkcaldy – 23 Sept 2021

Mrs Elizabeth Kelly, 92 Loughborough Road, Kirkcaldy – 20 October 2021

Dates For Your Diary

Christmas Fair

At a recent Session Meeting, there was a full discussion around holding a Christmas Fair of some description this year. Different possibilities were discussed but after taking all opinions into consideration, it was the decision of the Kirk Session that there should not be a Fair this year.

Sunday 5 December (2nd in Advent)

Gift Service. This is a tradition in Pathhead when we all bring a gift to be given to a wide range of age groups, eg babies, young children, teenagers, adults. Gifts should be wrapped and labelled to show which broad age group and gender (where appropriate). These gifts are usually distributed by our Health Visitors to the most needy families under their care.

UNICEF special collection. In the past we have brought Jars of Grace but it was felt that this year our contributions to the work of UNICEF should take the form of a special collection. Please put your contribution into an envelope marked “UNICEF” and place this in the offering plate at the door. UNICEF are always grateful for our support and especially during this time of pandemic their work with families in need has increased.

Sunday 12 December

Messy Christmas – for children and their families. This takes place in the large hall from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Sunday 19 December

Service of Carols and Lessons

Friday 24 December

All age Christmas Eve service in the church 6.30 pm

Pathhead Outreach

During the lockdown delivery of freshly cooked meals to the elderly and housebound in our Parish has continued. The Outreach Management team have been extremely grateful to the staff and volunteers who have continued to carry out this important work throughout the pandemic.

Earlier this year, with the easing of restrictions, the decision was taken to re-open the Café St Clair on 7th September. The return of customers has been slow and some days have been very quiet. The café is an important part of the Pathhead's mission and it is a safe place where good food and fellowship can be enjoyed.

If you have never come along yourself to the café, please consider giving it a try. If you are already a customer, it would be good if you encouraged friends, family and neighbours to enjoy the good food on offer. The café is open Tuesday to Friday 12 – 2pm. There is something to



suit everyone, tea or coffee with a scone or chocolate brownie, soup and a roll, filled rolls or meals and desserts. Half portions are also available on most main courses.



We have enclosed two flyers for the café which we hope you will pass to someone you know who might like to eat in the café. One flyer has a lucky number which will entitle the person bringing it along to a free meal for two people!

Please consider supporting our café. Thank you.



Life Afloat from 'Paws4Thought'

Since last writing for the magazine, life on the canals has changed, as so many other things have, because of Covid. The cruising season of 2020 was much shorter because the canals were closed during lockdown and the only movements were made by 'continuous cruisers', these boats have no set mooring, going for water, emptying their toilets and to get fuel. They then had to return to the mooring they were on when lockdown was declared. I had arrived at the marina on the Sunday but had to return to the house 2 days later.

When we eventually were allowed back on board, we had decided to not go too far but to enjoy what was left of the summer. Birmingham was very quiet which in August is most unusual. This city, at the heart of the canal system, sits on a high plateau and has more miles of canal than Venice. The scenery varies from tower blocks to open country but usually with the railway alongside the canal. Travelling the long 'mainline' which takes about 5 hours, we did not pass a single boat – most unusual. This year was very different with so many people on 'staycations' hiring boats, mooring was very difficult in the most popular places.

All the waterway festivals were cancelled last year so we did not manage to see many of our boating friends. This year things took off again and we were at three festivals in four weeks. As members of the 'Boaters Christian Fellowship' (B.C.F.), we help to man the stall and it was possible to allow people on board 'Paws' to see what a modern narrowboat looks like inside.



The end of this season was at Foxeley on the outskirts of Tamworth for a weekend of fellowship and worship with the B.C.F. This was a wonderful way to finish two very challenging years. B.C.F. hope to have a mission in Milton Keynes next June and we have already committed to helping.

Over the past eight summers, we have met many interesting and friendly people on the waterways and have visited many various places of worship from cathedrals like Ely, Gloucester and Worcester to a service in a Methodist Church where the organist was also the preacher and we had a congregation of 5! At the Nantwich Show three years ago, we met James Martin, the chef, who is an amazing person when dealing with the public. I have photographic evidence that I got a cuddle at the book signing!

I hope this gives you an idea of what we get up to when 'afloat'.

Pat Collins

Easyfundraising



Lots of us will be Christmas shopping online this year so *please* consider Easyfundraising. This is a simple way to help raise funds for the church when buying online. Registered retailers will make a percentage donation to the church, boosting our funds.

Log on to their site

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>, register, tell them your charity (Pathhead Parish Church) and start shopping. **It costs you nothing but since we began, £739.80 has been raised for church funds.** Once you have registered, a reminder will pop up on your screen when you are making a purchase from any retailers who are participants.



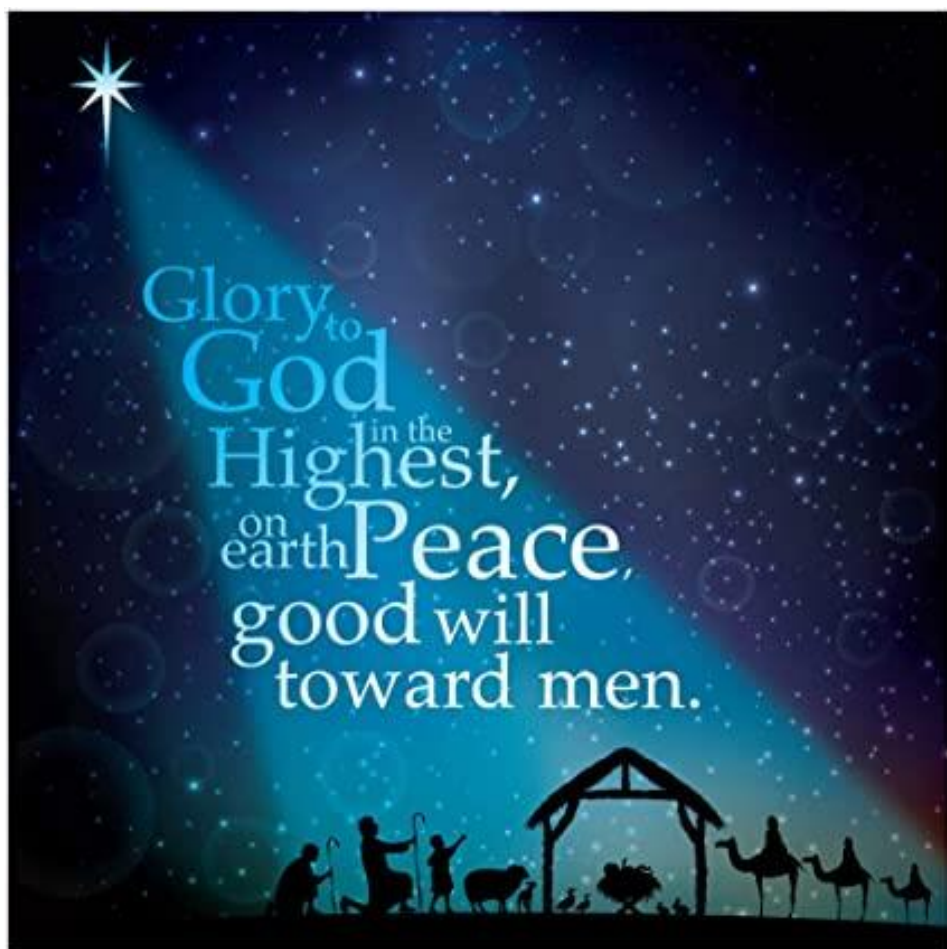
Armistice Poppies

Last year, Maureen Taylor and Alison Davidson organised for a number of people, including themselves, to knit or crochet poppies during lockdown. Last year due to Covid restrictions, it was not possible for a Remembrance Day Service to take place in the church.

Scroll forward one year, and with the help of Maureen's husband Jim, and some willing volunteers, a wonderful display was put together in the chancel, made up of over 800 poppies. The retiring offering on Remembrance Sunday came to the magnificent total of £210 which will be shared between Poppy Scotland and the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Well done to all who have been involved in this project.





Christmas Greetings

Margaret and John Glencross wish everyone

A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.



May you know and feel Christ's love in your life, through his sending his son to save us. Shalom

Aileen Yuile

Mary and Bert Anderson wish everyone a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Also a big thank you to the Praise team for all their hard work over the last year.



Maureen and Jim Taylor would like to wish Andrew, the girls and all our church friends and volunteers a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Every good wish for Christmas and the New Year. Helen Galloway



May the festive happiness of Christmas stay with you throughout the coming New Year. "Stay well and be happy". Margaret Wiley

May the joy and peace of the Christmas season stay with you throughout the coming year. Anne Deas



Hugh & Anne MacKenzie wish all their friends at Pathhead, Seasons Greetings and good wishes for 2022.

I wish all at Pathhead the joy of the Christmas season and every blessing in 2022.

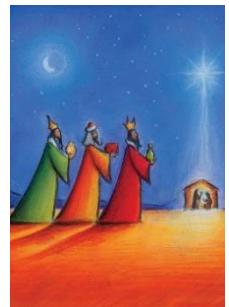
Ann Mitchell

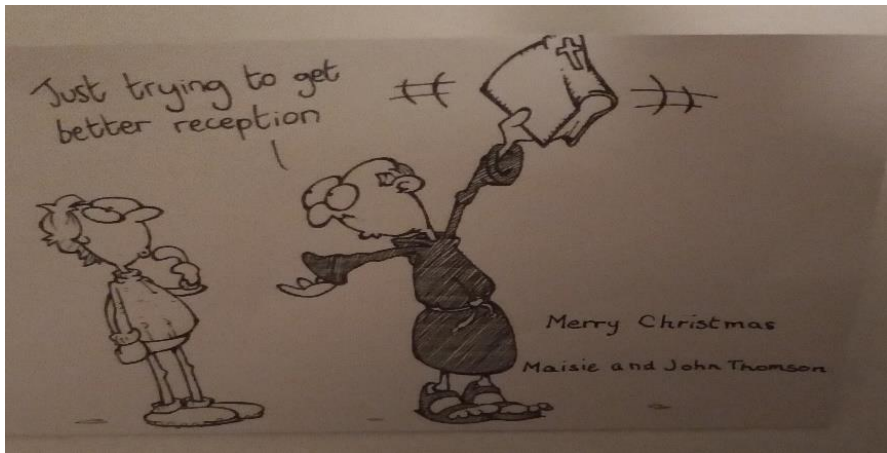


Ken and Kathleen Bellingham wish everyone at Pathhead a Merry Christmas and a happier and healthier New Year.

Margaret and John Horn wish everyone a Happy Christmas and every good wish for a healthy New Year.

To all my dear friends in both the Church and the Guild - May I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year. With warmest regards to you and yours.
Rina MacDonald.





The Mobile Phone Versus The Bible

What would happen if we treated our bibles in the same way as we treat our mobile phones?

What if we carried it around in our handbags or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages?

What if we treated it as though we could not live without it?

What if we gave it to our children as a gift?

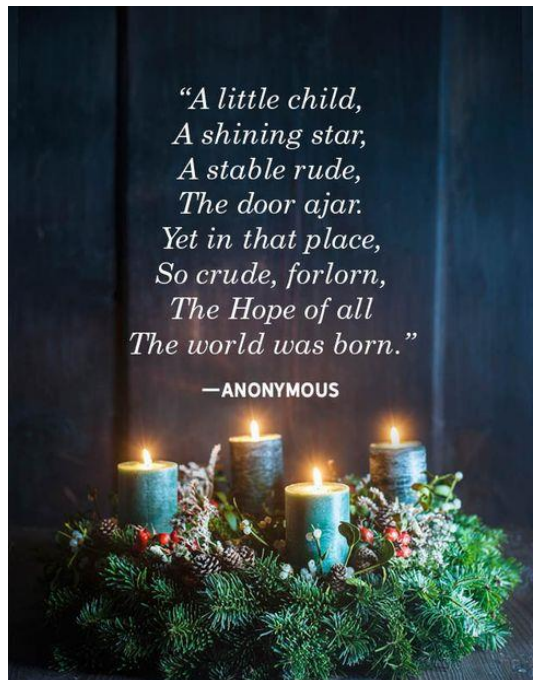
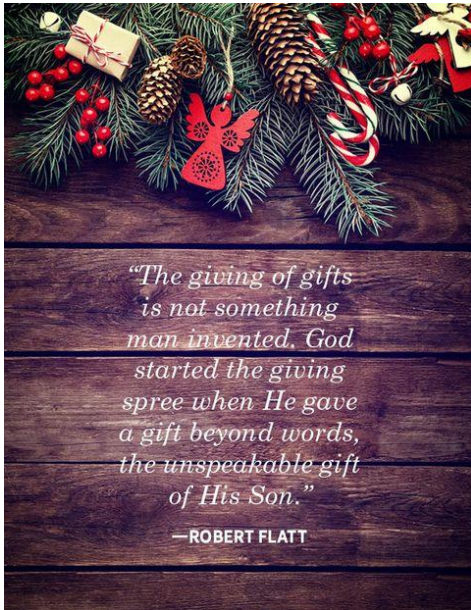
What if we used it when we travelled?

What if we used it in emergencies?

We do not need to worry about our Bible being disconnected because of an unpaid bill. Jesus has already paid the bill, and in full.

And just think – no missed calls! God hears them all.

Created by Mark Stibbe





Messy Church Returns!

The first Messy Church held back in the church hall, was on Sunday 3rd October. Despite the limitations caused by Covid precautions, there was a lovely atmosphere in the hall and feedback about the event was really positive. Eleven families attended with 25 children and 14 adults. Read what two of those attending thought:

I have really enjoyed going back to messy church. It was lovely to see everyone in real life instead of on a computer screen. Even though the experience wasn't the same as it normally is, it still felt a bit more like messy church. The activities about leaves and nature were fun especially when we got to plant seeds and grow our own cress. I think it's amazing that messy church is back and I would love to keep going to messy church in the hall instead of zoom.

By Alana Henderson

I really enjoyed going back to messy church, seeing everyone and some new people too! Doing the activities and catching up with friends made me so, so happy! When we did our singing, it felt much better than singing on mute with my mum! I was happy to be together again and to learn another bible story.

By Evie Henderson



Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal



A huge thank you to everyone who donated money, items and filled shoeboxes for the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal. We

have a total of 51 shoeboxes which will bring joy at Christmas to children and adults facing difficulties through poverty, illness, disability or other disadvantages in Eastern Europe.



If you want to see how your generosity has helped others in previous years you can read some stories on the Blythswood Care website.

Kathy Glachan



News from the Guild



We met for our first meeting on Monday 6th September, the evening was spent reminiscing on how we had all spent our time during the months of isolation. It was interesting to hear how many new hobbies had been achieved and the amount of home baking which had been baked and distributed to friends and neighbours.

Our Communion and Dedication service was led by our minister Rev Andrew Donald who reminded us of the Guild theme for this year 'Lights and Bushels' A lamp does not serve it's purpose if it is hidden so we are to let our light shine so that others may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven Matthew 5 v 16.

Sunday 24th October was our 125th anniversary Rev Andrew Donald led a dedication service honouring the work and dedication of all Guild members and for their service to the Church during its 125 years existence. On Monday 25th October we celebrated by enjoying a fish and chip night, Elsie Weir cut our anniversary cake which everyone enjoyed with a cup of tea. A list of songs and hymns from the late 1800's and early 1900's were remembered, many of the hymns are still sung today, this was followed with a quiz. Old photographs of former members which went back to 1955 and 1958 – 59, some recognising their family members and church members. The ladies of the Guild in those days all wore a hat to the meeting, dare I say anything more. The evening was enjoyed with laughter, fun and fellowship.



2020 was not the year we expected it to be. The pandemic brought our Guild meetings to an abrupt end in March 2020. We were on a journey through our three - year strategy 'One journey many roads' unfortunately we were diverted down a different road. The Guild has been around a long time and faced many challenges during its 125 years here in Pathhead, thankfully we have come safely through the health pandemic and at last resumed our meetings ready to take on our new three - year strategy 'Look forward in Faith' Our themes for the next three years are 'Lights and Bushels' Wee seeds, big trees and New wine, new wine skins.

The Guild meets every second Monday at 7.30pm, and our next meeting is on the 1st November. All are welcome to attend and you will be made to feel part of the Guild family. As we look ahead to the end of 2021 and beyond, we can make it what we want it to be, we can play a part in the life of this organisation the Guild the Church and the wider world.

As we look to the future we are reminded of the song.

I know who holds the future, and he'll guide me with his hand, with God things don't just happen, everything by him is planned, as I face the future with its problems large and small, I'll trust the God of miracles give to Him my all.

Last year things were very different and a year from now they will be different again. As we look to the future of the Guild let's allow ourselves to be encouraged and motivated by what lies ahead.

Alison Davidson



Family Social Committee

I'm pleased to report that the committee met in the Large Hall on Saturday, 2 October, 2021, our first meeting since 8 February, 2020. Although we had kept in regular contact with each other during the pandemic, either by 'phone or e mail, it was a nice change to have a formal face to face meeting in familiar surroundings.

Our Agenda was relatively short, albeit there was plenty of discussion, principally regarding the merits or otherwise of holding a New Year Ball in January, 2022, and our re-arranged Weekend Away. Regrettably, we concluded that in the present climate, a New Year Ball could NOT be held.

The good news is that there has been sufficient interest in our weekend away to Llandudno, 29 April, 2022 – 2 May, 2022 to make the trip viable. As in previous years, the outstanding balance (£317) has to be paid approximately eight weeks before departure, however further information will be published early in the New Year. We still have some places available, and anyone who has not previously put their name down will be made most welcome. Please contact either Anne Scott or myself for further details. **The committee remain acutely conscious of concerns surrounding Covid and the trip will only go ahead if it is safe to travel.**

Ken Bellingham

Chairman, FSC



Christmas Word Search



CANDY CANE
CAROLS
CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER
ELVES
GINGERBREAD
JINGLE

HOLLY
LIGHTS
MERRY
NORTH POLE
ORNAMENTS
PRESENTS
REINDEER

SANTA
SLEIGH
STOCKING
TREE
WINTER
WREATH



CHRISTMAS
BEGINS WITH
Christ

