



Pathhead Parish Church

Spring Newsletter 2023

A Letter From The Manse

Dear Friends

Late March and early April display signs of new life all around. Snowdrops, narcissi, crocuses and daffodils poke their way through the soil, buds start to appear on the trees, the grass starts to look green once more and the fields put on their display of young leaping lambs. Late March heralds the change of the clocks and evenings are no longer spent huddling indoors but out in the garden if we are fortunate enough to have one.

March and April are also big months for churches. Mothering Sunday is celebrated and the children of Sinclairtown Primary School visit the Kirk for their Easter Service. Before the passing of a week, accounts are presented to the AGM's and the Stated Annual meeting. Soon, the end of the Lenten journey paves the way for Holy Week, Easter Services and Holy Communion.

With the passing of each week, we notice changes within our congregation. This Spring, we welcome a new member to Congregational Board and others to the congregational family itself. We mourn the passing of those we felt would be with us forever. We express our hearty thanks to a long standing and much-loved Treasurer and warmly welcome one who is willing to take up the reins. We anticipate the arrival of a student in the Mentoring Process and continue with the planning of the Kingdom Park Mission initiative. All these things, just a little snapshot of a fraction of the year – and what a year, for 2023 is a momentous year in the history of our Church!

On the 2nd of November 1823 the building in which we worship was dedicated to the glory of God. Two hundred years later, we want to honour the worship, witness and mission of all who laboured and served their Lord down through the years. Our Messy Church Team, celebrated their 10th anniversary at the tail end of March and we want to mirror the great joy of that event when we reach this significant and historic milestone. So planning has already begun and the “200 Group” as it is known, has been exploring ways to make this celebration really special.

Of course, a building is nothing without its members, so I personally want to thank all those who contribute so much to the life of our congregation. We are more than a team, we are a family, who laugh together, cry together and witness together. May God continue to bless us whatever the future holds.



Your friend and minister,

Andrew





Family Register

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

Deaths

Mrs Ella Paterson , 43 Ravens Craig, Kirkcaldy – 24th December 2022

Mrs Catherine MacDonald (Rina), - 48 Oswald Road, Kirkcaldy – 10th January 2023

Mrs Aileen Yuile, 19 Abbots Mill, Kirkcaldy – 21st February 2023

Miss Wendy McCallum, Bennoch Lodge, Kirkcaldy – 12th March 2023

Also remembering...

Mr Thomson Jordan, Craiglockhart Care Home, Edinburgh – 4th December 2022

Mrs Doreen Duncan, 238 Overton Mains, Kirkcaldy – 9th January 2023



Baptism

Zach Theo Baxendale

18th December 2022



Added to the Roll

Cara Donald

Caroline Paterson

26th March 2023

(by Profession of Faith)

Congratulations
to
Jim and Maureen Taylor
John and Elspeth Turnbull
and



Jim and Katie Samson

who all celebrated their diamond
wedding anniversaries in March.



Flowers in Church

November 2022	27/11	Mrs A Scott
December 2022	4/12	Mrs R MacDonald, Mrs N Dick
	11/12	A & L Hugh, C & M Hugh, J & K Frawley Ms M Kellie
	18/12	Miss C Hughes
January 2023	22/1	Mr & Mrs R Jackson
	29/1	Ms S Campbell
February 2023	3/2	Mrs M Balfour Mrs M Glencross
March 2023	5/3	Mrs H Easson

The flower group wish to thank all who donate for flowers in the chancel each Sunday and to those who help deliver them. They are greatly appreciated by all who receive them

Sheila White

We have been busy!

Christmas Fair

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair. It was great to see so many people on the day itself. Thank you to others who were unable to come along in person, but supported us with donations of home baking and goods to sell, some people bought tea tickets and others gave donations. The final total was a superb £2400 which will help maintain the fabric of the church and halls.



Jars of Grace

The UNICEF Jars of Grace donations raised a magnificent total of £520. This money will go towards the work of UNICEF, helping millions of children who are facing violence, disease, hunger and the chaos of war and disaster.



Gift Service

Thank you to all who generously donated gifts which were distributed by The Cottage Centre. Almost 100 gifts were placed under the tree at our gift service.

Retiring Offering

At our Christmas Eve Service, there was a retiring offering in aid of Fife Women's Aid. A donation totalling £230 was sent to support the valuable work which they do for women and children who have suffered domestic abuse.



**DISASTERS
EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE**

On two Sundays in February, we held a retiring offering to support The Turkey – Syria Earthquake Appeal by The Disasters Emergency Committee. The total raised was £550.

200th Anniversary

As you will already have read in the letter from Andrew, 2023 is an important year for Pathhead Parish Church as it sees us reach our 200th anniversary. An excerpt from the book compiled by John Winter for the 175th anniversary reads, "On the 2nd November, 1823, the Church bell was ringing for the first time to call the people of Pathhead to the opening of their new Church."

A newspaper report describes the structure as

"...Gothic, surmounted with elegant turrets, having a square tower in front, 68 feet high, niched with embrasures. The whole conveys an idea of respectability to the manufacturing villages of Pathhead and St Clairtoun, and forms an imposing counterpart to the ancient and venerable Castle of Ravensheugh, close by."

In the early hours of Sunday, 15th November, 1953 the Church described above which had withstood the changes of time and weather, went on fire. The whole interior was destroyed and there followed years of uncertainty before the service of rededication of the Church as we know it today took place on 30th April, 1958.



Church rededication

A small group of Church members has been formed to plan events to mark our 200th anniversary. There have already been 3 meetings and a number of ideas are being discussed. We will keep you informed of planned events and hopefully you will want to join us for at least some of these.

If you have any suggestions, photos or memories which you think would be useful then please get in touch with any elder or phone the church office on 204635.

More information and details of events planned will be in the next Newsletter.

An Easter Quiz

1. How many marzipan balls are traditionally on a simnel cake?
2. The first Easter eggs were dyed what colour?
3. In Switzerland, what animal delivers Easter eggs to children?
4. What is the official flower of Easter?
5. Where is Easter Island located?
6. Which country first introduced an Easter tree?
7. In eastern Christianity, the end of Lent is called what?
8. Easter Sunday is also called what?
9. Which island celebrates the start of Easter with a kite flying festival?
10. Where was Jesus crucified? The name means 'place of the skull'.



Messy Church

Messy Church celebrated their 10th birthday in February. The biscuits were popular as always and there were cards make, paper lanterns and cheerleader pompoms to wave about as we sang the songs.

Neill gave everyone lots to think about a quiz about what was happening 10 years ago.

One thing that was decided was to spend the money in the Messy Church funds to buy copies of the Jesus Storyteller Bible, and every family who came along on the day was given a copy.



to

with



As with any birthday party, there was a cake and everyone enjoyed a tasty slice at the end of the afternoon. Well done and thank you to the team who prepare the Messy Church programme each month.

Easter Quiz Answers

1. 11
2. Red
3. A bird (The Easter Cuckoo)
4. White lily
5. Southeast Pacific
6. Germany
7. Lazarus Saturday
8. Resurrection Day
9. Bermuda
10. Golgotha

Pathhead Christian Outreach

Did you see us in the newspaper?



Fred and Linda Evans



Diana Steedman and Dave Duncan

These are some of our dedicated team of volunteers who deliver freshly cooked meals to the housebound and elderly in our Parish area (this extends towards Dysart, up

to Gallatown and as far as Dunnikier Road).

You may have seen them in The Fife Free Press!



Gordon Suttie

If you, or anyone you know, would like to make use of this service please phone 01592 204635 and ask for more details. Meals can be supplied Monday to Friday but there is no need to have these every day – individual days can be accommodated. Special dietary requirements can also be catered for.

The café and outreach form a very important part of our mission within the parish but we really need more volunteers to help with delivery. This only takes about an hour and you can choose which day you are available or you might be willing to go on the list of occasional volunteers who help out to cover absences due to illness or holidays. If you or someone you know (they do not need to be a church member) would be interested in helping with this important work please phone the church office Tel: 204635.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a vibrant pink cosmos flower. The hand is positioned in the lower right quadrant, with fingers gently cupping the petals. To the left, another white cosmos flower is visible, and in the background, a tall, thin, yellowish-green flower stalk rises. The scene is set in a field of various flowers, with a soft, out-of-focus background. The overall mood is peaceful and celebratory, capturing the beauty of spring.

**“SPRING:
A LOVELY REMINDER
OF HOW BEAUTIFUL
CHANGE CAN TRULY BE.”**

Craft Sale

The Crafty Blethers Group meet in the Rosslyn Room on a Tuesday morning. They have been busy crafting (and blethering) every week and are now happy to be holding a fundraising sale for Alzheimers Scotland.

If you are able please come and support this very worthwhile cause.

Friday 31st March 10 – 12 noon Crafty Blethers Craft Sale



CRAFTY BLETHERS GROUP
at Pathhead Parish Church
CRAFT SALE
FUNDRAISER FOR
ALZHEIMERS SCOTLAND
CUPPA & CAKE
FRIDAY 31ST MARCH 2023
10 AM TILL NOON

Easter Services



Wednesday 5th April Carmelite Monastery 6.30 pm

Maundy Thursday 6th April Pathhead Parish Church –
Communion Service 6.30 pm

Good Friday 7th April Dysart St Clair 6.30 pm

Easter Sunday 9th April Pathhead Parish Church -
Communion Service 11 am



News from the Guild



We are coming to the end of our second year of our Look Forward in Faith strategy 'Wee Seeds, Big Trees'. Unlike previous themes which have been based on a Bible passage of scripture, Wee Seeds, Big Trees explores the idea of growth, physical growth and spiritual growth. We are where we are today because of the people who nurtured us both physically and spiritually to make us the

person we have become.

Spring is a favourite time of year for many of us. We look at our gardens and we see new growth suddenly appearing after a cold wet winter. Snowdrops have appeared reminding us that despite new life struggling to get established Spring is imminent. I have been told if we have too many snowdrops in one part of our garden then their numbers will reduce so we must divide them and plant them in smaller amounts to see them increase in numbers.

We are coming to the end of our Guild session for 2022 to 2023 planting seeds is not something new for any of us especially in the Guild. When we meet on a Monday evening we worship, pray and enjoy fellowship with each other, hear from our invited speakers who are very knowledgeable on their chosen subjects and enjoy fellowship with each other over a cup of tea. As we look forward in Faith may we see new growth develop in our Guild from the wee seeds we have planted.

The Seed, a short poem, we do not know who wrote it, may give you an insight into the life of a tiny seed.

You take a little seed and put it in the ground,
Spread a little bit of love and cheer all around.
Plant a little kindness from above
And you'll have a garden made of love.
Tend it patiently in prayer,
Root out the weeds of doubt and care
Trust God's Spirit from above to feed and nourish the seed of love.
Tend the garden through and through as Jesus Christ directs you to
Pour forgiveness all around
And you will have a fruitful ground.

With the help from the gardeners who look after the church garden, the Guild as part of our Wee seeds, big trees theme, have planted some spring bulbs, they are beginning to grow and should flower shortly. We hope they will brighten up that corner of the garden and bring colour and joy to us not just for today but for the years to come.

Alison Davidson and Nan Dick

Kingdom Park

A small group has been formed to make the residents of the new housing development, Kingdom Park, aware of the local churches, the work we do, the organisations who meet in the churches and what we can offer in the way of help and support. This is a joint initiative and the core group is made up of three members of Pathhead Parish and three members from Dysart St Clair. The initiative has the full support of Fife Presbytery and grant money was obtained to support the work.

As an initial means of contact with the residents, it was decided that 'Welcome' bags should be delivered to households. The bags contained a tea bag, a coffee sachet, a few chocolates, some biscuits, an Easter bookmark, a colouring picture and a small pack of colouring pencils.

This is the label which was stuck on the bag.



A small gift from your local churches:

Relax, have a cuppa and enjoy settling into your new home.

Should you ever need us, we're always here for you.



The bags will be delivered by the team next week.

*The very first
Easter taught
us this: that
life never
ends and love
never dies*

