

# Pathhead Parish Church Autumn Newsletter 2023



## **A Letter From The Manse**

Dear Friends

On my arrival at Pathhead, I was presented with a booklet entitled, “Centenary Souvenir, 1823-1923”. It is prefaced by my illustrious predecessor (a few ministries removed), the Reverend T. G. Snoddy; and I think it highly appropriate to share his words with you as we now approach the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pathhead Parish Church. I hope, like me, his words raise an amusing smile as he describes his take on congregational life one-hundred years ago...

“Church histories are sometimes biographies of ministers, which is a flattering and futile method of procedure. Here we have rather aimed at portraying the life of the people, while not forgetting the labours and achievements of the several clergymen. That there are omissions of fact goes without saying; and it is curious that the records are sometimes silent when they might usefully speak. We deplore that we have not been able to invent a method of doing away with dates, and we regret the impossibility of recalling by name many bygone servants of the Church. In the general view, Church records are thought to be void of humour, but this is not the case. They are invaded, as all things are, by natural absurdities; they mirror the quaintness of former customs, and convey hints of human eccentricities which gleam laughingly amid the field of barren facts. There is, for example, something absurdly humorous in the proposal of an architect to put a fine ornamental chimney, costing £150, on the Hall, when the Hall itself is entirely hidden behind the Church. And about the time of the earliest and very exhausting trail of ministers, in 1840, it is amusing to note in the

treasurer's accounts, the mention of a biscuit here and a biscuit there, with this suspicion of something else. So also, one cannot completely shut out the humorous whims of beadle or precentor. There are rings of laughter all round those letters where officials are asking for "more", or venting the spirit of some harmless rivalry. In these ways the pages come gently into life, and we join hands with the dead who lived, and worshipped, and worked before us, and gave us their heritage of love and wisdom garnered through a hundred years."

Those words suggest that, in the Church as we know it today, nothing has changed, though everything has changed. What makes the Church, is not its bricks and mortar but its people. We especially learned that lesson through the COVID years of restriction and shutdown. The Church is the body of Christ and each person a member of that body. We toil and labour with all our flaws, frailties and quirks of character, to build the Kingdom which is founded on our Saviour Jesus Christ. We know we are not perfect but we try to point to the One who is! Be encouraged and be of good heart!

Your friend, minister and fellow servant, Andrew.



Thank you to May Snaddon and her daughter Eleanor who designed this image of the church for our bicentennial. It illustrates that Pathhead has for 200 years remained strong while seeing the constant changing of the seasons.

**1823- PATHHEAD -2023**  
PARISH CHURCH



## Family Register

Added to the roll

Mr Sandy and Mrs Celia Carson  
by Certificate of Transference.



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## Flowers in Church

July	2/7	Flower Box	September	3/9	Mrs M Glencross
	9/7	Mr & Mrs R Jackson		10/9	Mrs H Easson
	16/7	Mrs C Durie		17/9	Mr & Mrs R Jackson
	23/7	Mr & Mrs E Cockburn		24/9	Mrs M Baillie
	30/7	The Brown Family			
August	6/8	Mrs R Curran			
	13/8	Mrs E MacDonald			
	20/8	Flower Box			
	27/8	Flower Box			

The Flower Team wish to say thank you to all who have donated for flowers and to those who help by delivering them to those who are sick, housebound, or as a gesture of appreciation.



Sheila White

## Crossreach

Many thanks to Margaret Glencross for once again arranging the sale of Crossreach Christmas cards and calendars.

Thanks to all those who purchased goods, raising the total of £295 which will be used by Church of Scotland to deliver and support a range of social care programmes in Scotland.

**CROSSREACH**  
Care you can put your faith in

## Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal



Since the first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993 Blythswood have sent more than 2.5 million boxes – each one different, each one personal, each one an expression of your care and kindness towards a stranger in need. Filled with small, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, and clothing, the individually-wrapped boxes have been distributed in schools, hospitals,

orphanages and care homes, and to households in very low income communities. Many have gone to people affected by the war in Ukraine.

Here at Pathhead we have supported the Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal for a number of years. This year, the last day for handing in boxes is 29<sup>th</sup> October and at the time of printing we have 80 boxes which have been filled and donated. A tremendous total.

Thanks to Kathy Glachan for co-ordinating the collection of boxes on our behalf and to everyone who has donated. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your gift truly makes a difference.



## Harvest

Our Harvest service was held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Donations were made for Kirkcaldy Foodbank and envelopes were made available for a special collection also in aid of The Foodbank. The final total donated was £312. Plants were also delivered to

some members of the congregation who are unable to join us Sunday to Sunday. We hope that these small tokens help to make you feel connected, cared for and part of our church family.



## News from the Guild



We began our new session of the Guild on Monday the 11th September and we have now reached our 3rd and final year of our strategy 'Look forward in Faith' We began year 3 with the theme 'New Wine, New Wineskins'. We are just a few weeks into our new session and have enjoyed a taste and try night with various cheeses and biscuits. Revd Andrew Donald led our Dedication and Communion Service, an evening with David Galloway on Scottish poems gave us all an enjoyable and entertaining evening. Arthur Lloyd who has come along to talk to us on many occasions took us on a journey of the Inner Hebrides where the scenery was breath taking and we were able to sing along to the music he chose before each Island was shown on the screen. At our meeting on Monday the 6th November we have a speaker from the R.N.L.I. who is coming along to speak on the work of the local lifeboat volunteers.

On Monday 20th November we are having a Scottish night with 'Stovies and a sweet delight'. Entertainment will be our very own accordionist, Gordon Suttie. On Monday 4th December will be our Finance meeting followed by a snowman drive. To celebrate Guild week in September we enjoyed a soup and sweet lunch after the morning service, this was a huge success, and we would like to thank everyone who supported us for this event. The Guild committee were responsible for making the soup, serving the meal, and making sure we were all fed and above all making us all feel welcome They put a lot of work and effort into making this event successful and we thank them all for a lovely lunch. We thank everyone from our congregation who came along and supported us on the day. Guild meetings are open to men and woman, you do not need to be a member to attend. Do not be shy to come, you will be made very welcome.

Alison Davidson

## Edinburgh Interfaith Association Visit

In July, we had a visit from the Edinburgh Interfaith Association. The main aim of the group is to work with people of all faiths and none to create a more respectful, peaceful world. Each year, the group hire a bus and take a number of members on a summer outing where they visit a place of worship to enjoy a time of fellowship and quiet reflection. After a rather long wait (the bus had been held up in traffic delays on the Queensferry Crossing), Moyra Kelly and Elizabeth and Dave Duncan met the group.

After serving them a very welcome cup of tea and Elizabeth's homemade pancakes, they spent time showing the group around the church, explaining some of the history and the significance of stained glass windows and panels and also gave the group time to sit and have a time of personal peace and reflection. After leaving Pathhead, the group were heading to Burntisland for a picnic before returning to Edinburgh.



## 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

We have now seen a couple of events taking place as part of the celebrations for our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

# DOORS OPEN DAYS 2023

Doors Open Days is Scotland's largest free festival that celebrates places and stories, new and old. Every September you can explore hundreds of fascinating buildings across Scotland for free. Doors Open Days is coordinated nationally by the Scottish Civic Trust and supported by Historic

Environment Scotland. We opened the doors of the church on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September and invited people to come in and look around the building. Information was provided about the special features of interest throughout the church as well as a children's trail and a photographic exhibition.



Visitors were also able to hear the organ being played by Ian Ogilvie on Saturday and by Alan Urquhart on Sunday. We were very encouraged by the numbers who visited having around 30 people each day.



At the end of September we held a very successful ceilidh. Music was provided by Nackytoosh Ceilidh Band who helped us enjoy an evening of dancing and also introduced us to some new ceilidh dances. We had a great mix of ages from under 10 to over 90 which created a lovely atmosphere. At the interval while the band took a well earned rest, everyone tucked into stovies and oatcakes, giving them plenty energy for the next round of dancing.



The aim of the 200 Group is to hold an event each month throughout the year of our bicentenary so please keep checking the website for further details. There is also more information on the next pages. Our next main event is the special service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November, followed by a congregational lunch.



## 200<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

### **November 5<sup>th</sup> – Anniversary Lunch**

A congregational meal with invited guests to celebrate the dedication of Pathhead Parish Church (known then as the West Church of the Parish of Dysart) on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1823.



### **December 10<sup>th</sup> – Kingdom Brass Concert – 3pm**

After last year's successful concert, we welcome back Kingdom Brass to perform for us. A musical interlude for the darker days and to ease us into the busy Christmas period. Kingdom Brass performs at various concerts, festivals and competitions all over the UK and abroad. It was formed in 1999 by the amalgamation of the Cowdenbeath and Kelty & Blairadam Bands. Tickets will be on sale nearer the time priced adults £10 and children £5

### **December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Christmas Fair – 2pm**

This year will be our 60<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Fair. Fun for children and adults alike and also even a visit from Santa! A variety of stalls including Christmas Crafts and Cake and Candy. Entry £1 gives free entry to win a Christmas Hamper. Tea tickets Adult £3 Children £1.50

## **2024**

### **January 28<sup>th</sup> – Moderator to Preach - 11am**

Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, current Moderator of The C

hurch of Scotland will preach at morning worship. She has taken a sabbatical from her role as head of Christian Aid in Scotland to serve as the Kirk's ambassador at home and abroad.

### **February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Scottish Night**

This will be an evening of Scottish entertainment including singing, poetry and musical pieces.

## March 21<sup>st</sup> – Alastair McDonald Concert – 7pm

Alastair McDonald visited Pathhead when we celebrated our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we are delighted that he has agreed to return for our Bicentenary.



## Dates for the Diary



Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Bicentennial Service 11am

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Coffee Morning 10am – 12 noon

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday Service 10.50am  
(note earlier time)

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Wreath Making Workshop 2pm  
(20 places max)

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Christmas Fair 2 pm

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Communion 11am {1st in Advent}  
Messy Church 2pm

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Café St Clair - Christmas lunch

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – UNICEF Jars of Grace and Gift Service 11am  
Kingdom Brass Concert 3pm

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Children's nativity

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Sunday service 11am

Family Watchnight Lantern Service 6.30pm

**60<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Fair**  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2 pm**



All the usual stalls plus some new ones.

Santa is getting prepared for the day.



Not long to go.....please get the date  
in your diary!!

Entry £1 for adults gives free entry to win a fabulous  
Christmas Hamper.

Tea Tickets

Adults £3 Children £1.50

If you change the  
way you look at things,  
the things you look at  
change.

*-Wayne Dyer*

