

A decorative banner for the Pathhead Parish Church Spring Newsletter 2024. The banner features a background of green grass with several colorful tulips in shades of pink, red, and yellow. The text 'Pathhead Parish Church' is written in a large, black, sans-serif font at the top, and 'Spring Newsletter 2024' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font below it.

Pathhead Parish Church

Spring Newsletter 2024

A Letter From The Manse

Dear Friends

Caroline and I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who has sent us cards and good wishes following the announcement of our engagement. We plan to hold our wedding service at Pathhead Parish Church, on Saturday 11th May at 2pm and the Reverend Ken Froude will officiate at that service as the celebrant. The following day Ken has also kindly agreed to lead morning worship at Pathhead.

It has been such a delight to know the support and encouragement from all our members and we would be very happy for anyone who wishes to attend the service to join us on that happy occasion. We would have liked to invite each and every one of the congregation to the reception but sadly that is not possible and so the arrangements thereafter are just for family members.

For Pathhead, this has certainly been a year of celebration. The bicentenary has put Pathhead Parish Church on the map in a big way. The visit from the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Reverend Sally Foster Fulton, received coverage on the Church of Scotland website, the Fife Free Press, the Fife edition of the Courier, on Facebook and on "X" the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. Our church was also recognised for its work within the local community in a Motion to the Scottish Parliament, raised by local MSP David Torrance. Motion number S6M-11173 for those who wish to see it on the Parliamentary website.

Following such a successful start to 2024, we then enjoyed a wonderful Scottish Night which was a sellout occasion! Special contributions were made by the Kirkcaldy & District Pipe Band and its excellent Highland Dancers, the pupils from Sinclairtown Primary School with their Scottish

Country Dancing, Gordon Cox and Gordon Suttie on piano and accordion taking us on a musical journey around Scotland, Fiona Brodie, delighting us with such a humorous selection of Scottish poetry; and renowned jazz musician, Richard Michael rounding off a perfect evening of food, fellowship and entertainment.

On the 21st of March, at 7pm we welcome the multi-talented Alastair McDonald for an evening of entertainment and banter. Alastair has performed in Scotland and beyond as a full-time entertaining troubadour since 1972. His repertoire encompasses folk, Scottish and jazz – the complete allrounder. Many remember Alastair co-presenting BBC's Songs of Scotland in the 1970s, and he has remained a popular performer ever since. Equally important, is Alastair's deep and enduring Christian faith which he delights to share. Further events for 2024 are planned by our small but incredibly industrious 200 Group, so keep an eye out for more entertainment, celebration and thanksgiving to God.

Your friend and Minister, Andrew.



Family Register

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

Deaths

Mrs Myra Porteous, 185 Ravens Craig	05/06/2023
Mrs D Bowie, 28 Cedar Crescent, Thornton	08/12/2023
Mr Dave Wright, 187 Overton Mains	31/12/2023
Mrs Ella Stevenson, Ostlers House, Care Home	05/01/2024
Mrs Elspeth Turnbull, 125 Oswald Road	28/01/2024
Mr George Birrell, 108 Mid Street	30/01/2024

Added to the Roll

by Certificate of Transference

Mr Graham and Mrs Faye Grubb

Mrs Eleanor Haddow

Miss Margaret Bell



Flowers in Church

October 2023	1/10 Flower Box
November 2023	5/11 Mrs M Paterson Flower Box 12/11 Mr & Mrs R Jackson
December 2023	3/12 Brown Family
January 2024	7/1 Flower Box 14/1 Mrs M Glencross

21/1 Mrs M Balfour

28/1 Mrs I Povey

Thank you to all who contribute for flowers, to the flower team who place them in church each week and to those who deliver the flowers when required to those at home.

Sheila White

Christmas Fair

Saturday 2nd December 2023 saw us once again holding our annual Christmas Fair. This one was extra special as it was our 60th Christmas Fair. Members of Kingdom Brass opened the fair and then played some festive music which created a fabulous atmosphere. The first fair in 1962 was held in Pathhead Halls in Commercial Street as there was no church hall. There have been seven different convenors, but there are some constants. One is the hard work and willingness of volunteers to set up stalls bursting with things to buy.



Another constant is that all the fairs have had the continued support of the congregation, their families and friends and members of the community who come along and support us. The final total raised was £2200 which will help maintain the fabric of the church and halls.

The first customers

Supporting Others

Remembrance Sunday

The retiring offering on Remembrance Sunday for Poppy Scotland and The R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, realised the total of £217.



Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal



Thanks to Kathy Glachan for once again co-ordinating the shoe box appeal. We managed to pass all our previous efforts and a total of 95 shoe boxes were delivered by Kathy's husband to start their journey on their way to help others. Filled with small, practical items such as toiletries, stationery and clothing, the individually-wrapped boxes are 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.

Jars of Grace

Thanks to everyone for the continued support of the UNICEF Jars of Grace. Donations raised a total of £459. For over 75 years, UNICEF has been vaccinating, educating and protecting children. UNICEF works to influence laws and policies to create lasting change for children.



Gift Service

In 2023, we supported Fife Women's Aid with our Christmas Gift Appeal. 105 gifts were delivered which the volunteers distributed to families in need of support because of domestic abuse.

Christmas Eve Retiring Offering

At our Christmas Eve Service, the retiring offering was also in aid of Fife Women's Aid. A donation of £244.45 was sent to support the valuable work which they do for women and children who have suffered domestic abuse.



Thank you all for your kindness and generosity.

200th Anniversary



As you will already have read in the letter from Andrew, here at Pathhead we are continuing to celebrate our bicentenary. us reach our 200th anniversary.

In November, we had a special Bicentenary Service followed by our Anniversary Lunch. Rev Jim Reid, Moderator of Fife Presbytery, preached the sermon and we were joined by two of our former ministers, Rev Miller Milloy and Rev John Thomson, along with their wives. Our organist Alan Urquhart composed music and along with Anne Deas, wrote the words for a new hymn. The Light of Christ (Tune Pathhead) was sung by Linda Hugh, before the congregation joined in and sang the hymn, thanking the Lord for the past 200 years and looking to the future.



The top table

Downstairs, there were some speeches from those at the top table and then we were served a delicious meal.

John Winter cut the anniversary cake.

It was a wonderful day of celebration.



In December, we had our Christmas Fair and then there was a superb concert in the church by Kingdom Brass. Along with their wonderful,

talented guest soloist, they filled the church with music. Everyone went home happy that day after their afternoon of musical entertainment.



In January, we were honoured to have the Moderator of The Church of Scotland, the Rt. Rev Sally Foster-Fulton preaching at morning worship. Sally was accompanied by her husband Stuart. It was good to have them both joining us downstairs in the large hall after the service for tea, coffee, cake and fellowship.

We are very fortunate to have had a special commemorative plaque made for us by Bruce Robertson. This will be a permanent reminder of our bicentenary. A huge thank you to Bruce for his work.



Andrew and Sally beside our commemorative plaque

As Andrew has already written, in February, we held a very successful Scottish Night with a wide variety of entertainment, all based around a Scottish theme. During the interval, a tasty light supper of oatcakes, cheese and chutney went down well, followed by tea, coffee and shortbread. Everyone agreed that it was a great night.



Members of Kirkcaldy and District Pipe Band opened the evening with some rousing piping and drumming.

The 200 Group is still busy planning as we aim to hold events until October, which will mark the end of our bicentenary year. If you have not already managed along, please come and join us at one of our future events.

Thursday March 21st 7pm – An Evening with Alastair McDonald

Tickets Adults £10 Under 16's Free – Refreshments included

Friday April 19th 7pm – 9.30pm Quiz Night – Get your team together now. Teams of 4 - £10 Refreshments included

Sunday May 26th Afternoon 'Walk and Talk' – Balbirnie Park ending at Markinch Parish Church for 'picnic' and some fellowship. If you do not feel able to walk, there is the option of just joining us at the church. Transport can be arranged if needed.

Saturday June 8th 2pm Summer Fair

Check the church website for further details of these events.

Messy Church

Messy Church celebrated their 11th birthday when they met on Sunday 3rd March. The theme for the day was Jesus performing the miracle at the wedding in Cana when Jesus turned the water into wine. The biscuits continue to prove popular and there were other activities all based around the story.



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.

The next Messy Church will be on Sunday 24th March which will be our Easter Messy Church. If you have not come along before, then please put the date in your diary, you will be made most welcome.



Anecdotes from the pulpit

Following his Easter Sunday service, the minister was as usual, shaking hands with those leaving church. Always eager to increase numbers in the congregation, he eagerly shook the hand of Bob and encouragingly said, "You need to join the Army of the Lord."

My friend said, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord."

The minister replied, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

Bob whispered back, "I'm in the secret service!"

A little boy was attending an Easter service. Having eaten too many chocolate eggs before church, he began to feel sick. He tapped his mother on the shoulder and said, "Mum, can we go home now?"

No," she replied abruptly.

The boy waited a minute and tapped her on the shoulder again. "I think I'm going to throw up," he whispered.

His mum looked at him and noticed he did look a bit pale. "Okay. Go out the front door of the church, across the parking lot, and throw up behind the bushes," she instructed him.

Less than a minute later, the boy came back and sat down again in his seat. His mother whispered, "Did you throw up?" The boy nodded his head. "But how could you have gone all the way across the parking lot, thrown up, and walked back so quickly?" she asked.

“I didn’t even have to leave the church,” the boy proudly replied. “I found a box at the front of the church doors that says, ‘For the sick!’”

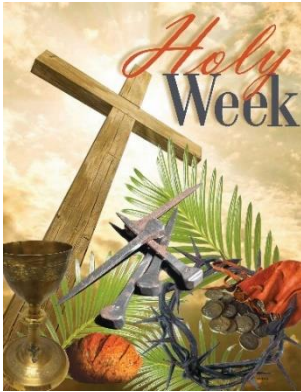
For his church’s Easter service, five-year-old Billy was asked to recite Luke 24:6: “He is not here, he is risen.” Despite practicing it several times, when he stood in front of the church, he froze and couldn’t remember what to say.

The minister leaned over and whispered the verse in the little boy’s ear. Billy smiled, grabbed the microphone, and confidently proclaimed, “He’s not here. He’s in prison!”

A man took a vacation to Israel with his wife and mother-in-law. During their time in the Holy Land, his mother-in-law unexpectedly passed away. The following day, the husband met with the local undertaker to discuss funeral plans.

“In cases like these, there are a couple of options to choose from,” the undertaker explained. “You can ship the body home for £10,000, or you can bury her in the Holy Land for just £1,150.” The man took a minute to think about it, and then announced his decision to ship her home.

The undertaker, intrigued by his decision, said, “That’s an interesting choice. Can I ask why would you pay £10,000 to ship your mother-in-law home, when you can easily bury her here for £1,150?” The man promptly replied, “Over 2,000 years ago, a man died and was buried here. Three days later he rose from the dead. I just can’t take that chance!”



Easter Services

Wednesday 27th March Carmelite Monastery 6.30 pm

Maundy Thursday 28th March Dysart St Clair

Communion Service 6.30 pm

Good Friday 29th March Pathhead Parish Church 6.30 pm

Easter Sunday 31st March Pathhead Parish Church -

Communion Service 11 am

God proved His love on the Cross.
When Christ hung, and bled,
and died, it was God saying to
the world, 'I love you.'



News from the Guild



Guild News

The Guild has had a successful session and we have welcomed new members into our Guild. We have had a variety of speakers at our meetings who have been informative, interesting, and passionate when speaking to us about their chosen subject. We are looking

forward in March to hearing East Fife Male Voice Choir as they entertain us, Revd Eileen Miller will talk about her work as a hospital chaplain and then the Guild coffee morning will take place on Saturday 24th March in the church hall from 10am to 12 noon. We look forward to meeting you all for a chat and fellowship together on that day.

Easter is only a few weeks away and we are looking forward to our Easter bunny drive which is always a fun night.

You may have heard or read this story before.

Wee Graham was excited when a postcard arrived addressed to him. He could read his name but not much else. It was from Granny, and she signed it Granny x. 'Why has she put a cross beside her name?' he asked. It shows how much she loves you said his Mum.

Shortly afterwards he started school. He proudly showed his Mum how many crosses the teacher had put next to his sums, she must love me an awful lot, thought Graham. Unfortunately, his Mum had to explain that these crosses meant he'd done the sums wrong.

Later that week they went to the polling booth and Graham's Mum put an X beside her preferred candidate. 'Does that mean you love someone or that they've done it wrong? Graham wanted to know. 'No, it's just showing the one I choose.'

On Sunday Graham went to church where the minister talked about the cross. Now Graham was really confused this time, does the cross mean that God loves me, or that I have done something wrong, or that God has chosen me.

All of them is the answer. God loves us despite the way we sometimes behave. The cross of Christ was to cancel out the way we sometimes behave, for God chooses us all the same. It's very simple really the story of the cross. Do we also choose the one who loves us despite everything and helps us get life as good as it can be?



Even through tears we can see the light. As the light emerges from the tomb and the cross of pain falls away to show God's love, let us choose the journey that ventures forward with Christ.

All the members at Pathhead Guild wish you a happy Easter and may you know the blessings of Easter in your life.



Kirkcaldy Foodbank will be holding their AGM on Tuesday 19th March in the church. All are welcome to attend this meeting. The speakers will be Darren McGarvey, social commentator and Ken Gourlay, Fife Council Chief Executive. Tea and coffee will be served in the large hall following the AGM.

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**IT DOES NOT MATTER
HOW SLOWLY
YOU GO
AS LONG AS
YOU DO NOT
STOP**

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