



# Pathhead Parish Church

## Summer Newsletter 2024

### **A Letter From The Manse**

Dear Friends

It has been a special privilege to share in the bicentenary celebrations of the past year, celebrating the rich history of our congregation and honouring the memory of those who passed on the torch of faith to us. We think of the countless individuals who lived by example, placing service above self, as they served their Lord in word and deed.

In recent days, we have been reminded of that same type of spirit in the commemoration of the Normandy Landings on D-Day, over eighty years ago. On June 6, 1944, thousands of brave soldiers stormed those beaches in a monumental effort to liberate Europe from the grip of tyranny. This pivotal event in World War II was a turning point in the fight for freedom and democracy. As we reflect on the courage and sacrifice of those who participated in this historic invasion, we are reminded of the enduring values they imparted—values that continue to resonate and guide us today.

The success of the Normandy invasion was not the result of individual effort alone, but of collective action. Equally, the success of the past year has been due to everyone pulling together in a shared goal. I think in every respect, it has been mission accomplished and I hope that everyone can look forward to the joys of this summer season with a sense of thankfulness and joy.

Summertime is normally a time of rest and relaxation but this year is markedly different... politicians will be working hard to secure your vote, European footballers will be showcasing their talents in Germany in the hope of reaching the Cup Final and, later in July and August, athletes at the peak of their physical strength will be hoping to secure gold at the Paris Olympics.

In truth, life never stands still. No institution or individual can ever thrive, stuck in one moment of time. The circumstances of life thrust us forward to the next goal, the next challenge, the next adventure. We may rest awhile; but soon we must plan and build for what lies ahead, we must adapt and adjust when the landscape changes, we consult the map as we journey on our pilgrim way and move forward in faith. As we do so, we know that Christ walks with us, every step of the way.

Your friend and Minister, Andrew.

### **And a note from Mrs Donald...**

Andrew and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for our wedding gifts. We were completely overwhelmed and very appreciative of your kindness and generosity, not to mention the kind-hearted messages and wishes we received.

It was a perfect, incredibly special day and it was a privilege to share it with you, our family and friends. On a personal note, I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your friendliness, kindness and warmth shown to me in so many ways.



With grateful thanks, Caroline



## Family Register

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

### **Deaths**

Miss Dorothy Jarvis, Abbeyfield Care Home (formerly 112 Ravenscraig) –  
5<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Mrs May Bissett, Elizabeth House (formerly 10 Broom Gardens) –  
15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Mrs Sheila Christie, 27 Binney Wells, Kirkcaldy – June 2024

Also Mr David Todd, 28 Ramsay Crescent, Burntisland – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
(former member of Pathhead)

*'We bring them, Lord, and with the sign of sprinkled water name them thine'*

### **Baptism**

Rayne Ellen Willow Hugh - 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024

*'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these  
is love.'*

### **Marriage**

Andrew Donald to Caroline Paterson – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024



Welcome!!

Added to the Roll – by Certificate of Transference

Rev Richard and Mrs Helen Houston

### **Donations for flowers**

February

18/02 Flower Box

March

3/03 Mrs H Easson



10/03 Mrs M Balfour & The Hugh and Frawley families  
17/03 Miss S Campbell  
24/03 Mr & Mrs R Jackson

April

14/04 Mr & Mrs J Taylor  
21/04 Mrs A Mitchell  
28/04 Mrs C Durie

June

9/06 Flower Box  
16/06 Brown Family

May

26/05 Mrs M Baillie

Thank you to all who contribute to the Flower Fund. It is much appreciated.  
Sheila White

Thanks to all who contributed to the  
retiring offering for Christian Aid. The  
total raised was £288.50



### Café St Clair

We are once again offering **children's meals for £1** when accompanied by an adult buying a main meal. Please encourage family and friends to support our café. Tasty, home cooked food is served at very reasonable prices. If you have never come along yourself, why not give it a try?

Our small army of volunteers continue to deliver meals through our Outreach programme and serve meals in the Café itself. Earlier in the year we held a small get together to say a huge 'Thank you' to all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. You can thank them too by coming along and supporting the Café.



## Pilgrimage

In May I went for a walk – a walk of 55 miles over 5 days to be exact, along with 10 strangers and 2 dogs. I mustn't forget the dogs as they were integral to the group. We followed the Fife Pilgrim Way from Culross to St Andrews, led by Duncan Weaver, the Fife Pilgrim Pastor.

But it wasn't just about walking, it was a pilgrimage. We stayed overnight in churches or church halls, in sleeping bags on camp beds and, on the way, other churches opened their doors to provide teas and coffees or somewhere for us to eat our packed lunch. The hospitality was excellent, especially from those who opened their own homes to offer us a much needed shower half way through the week.



There was a routine to each day – sort and pack your kit, breakfast, make packed lunch, morning prayer service, walk, lunch, lunchtime prayer service, walk, set out your bed in a different church, evening meal, evening prayer service, settle for the night. All sounds straightforward but even things like getting ready to face another day, leaving at a set time, finding light switches, preparing meals and working out how the oven worked in a different place each night or having nowhere to hang wet clothes and finding there's one toilet between all of you and nowhere to change was challenging but fun. Along the route, we were also given insights into the history – for example, pilgrim history of Culross, Dunfermline, Markinch, St Andrews and the history of the mining areas such as Lochore and Kilty as well as tours of Markinch Church and a talk on pilgrimage by Ian Bradley, the author of the Fife Pilgrim Way book.

The real feeling of pilgrimage though came in the companionship of my fellow pilgrims. We all came from different places, different backgrounds, different ages. All Christian but from different denominations and different ways of worshipping. Everyone was given the chance to take part or lead

the daily prayer services or choose the hymn, if they wanted, and everyone took part as suited them, nothing was forced.



I think we saw each other as a group of pilgrims. We all walked together, ate together, laughed together and slept in the same space. We fell into the rhythm of the group very quickly and conversations could be light or deep depending on what people wanted to share – it became a safe, trusting space. We were also asked to walk in silence at times, sometimes being given a specific theme to consider. Most of all, we supported each other. If anyone was struggling, either physically or emotionally, there was someone there for them. It wasn't always the same person struggling or the same person supporting, things just seemed to naturally work

themselves out.

I don't know why I signed up for the walk – whether to prove to myself I could do it or whether searching for something, maybe a bit of both, but everyone on the walk had different reasons for being there and took different things away from the week. Going forward, we won't all be best mates for life and I don't know how long we'll be in contact but for that week we were as one, a close knit support group.

Pilgrimage can be tough. Sometimes it means just focussing on putting one foot in front of the other to be able to reach the next stopping point, but it is also time out from the usual daily routine to reflect on one's life and relationship with God. Was my faith strengthened by the experience – yes but it also raised more questions. I gained a lot from the week, not least aching muscles and blisters, but the main thing that touched me was the sense of acceptance by the group, without condition.

Was I just lucky with the people I travelled with or was that the power of pilgrimage?

Moyra

## Summer Fair

Our annual Summer Fair was held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June. The weather did not look particularly great in the morning, but the rain held off and we had a busy afternoon with the Cake and Candy stall selling out in record time! The fabulous total of £2087.70 was realised.



Congratulations to Scott McCrossan, a Rainbow parent, who won a box full of picnic goodies in our Prize Draw entry.

As always, I would like to thank everyone who donated goods, baked, served, helped set up the hall and helped tidy everything away. Thank you too to those who came along on the day to spend their money and to those who although unable to come along on the day, generously donated to help us achieve such a magnificent total.

Thank you everyone.

Linda Hugh

## Pathhead 200 Anniversary



Our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events have continued thanks to the hard work and organisation of the 200 Group.

In March, there was an 'Evening with Alastair McDonald' in the Church. This was an evening of music and chat which was enjoyed by all those attending.



In April, we held a Quiz Night with proceeds from the evening going to the RNLI who are also celebrating their 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Around 20 teams entered and it was a fun evening with some rounds of questions more challenging than others!





At the interval, we were given a brief history of the RNLI and information about the vital work they undertake. At the end of the evening there was a tie between two teams, The Nifty Fifties and The Blind Bats. Our congratulations go to the eventual winners. The total raised for the RNLI on the evening was a magnificent £675.50.

Our May event was a stroll and picnic at Balbirnie Park, ending at Markinch Parish Church for a 'picnic' and some Messy Church fellowship. Despite wet weather beforehand, most of the walk took place in dry weather and everyone enjoyed chatting as they walked through the



woodland at Balbirnie. Once at Markinch Parish Church some people went for a tour of the Church and found out some fascinating facts about it's history.



It was then across the road to the Church hall for some Messy Church songs, a short message about pilgrimage and a picnic.

In September, we will once again be taking part in the Doors Open event. This will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The 200 Group are also in the planning stages for another couple of events to round off our 200<sup>th</sup> year. These events will take place before the next issue of the Newsletter, so **please check the Church website for details** [pathheadchurch@btconnect.com](mailto:pathheadchurch@btconnect.com)

## Guild



On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June the Guild met for our annual fish and chip evening. Forty members attended and everyone enjoyed an evening of fellowship together. Margaret Horn arranged a quiz with the answer spelling out fish and chips which had us all communicating together while we waited for our supper to arrive.

Nan Dick has decided to step down from Guild commitments and office bearer duties after serving 60 plus years as a member of the Guild which also involved her time as a member of the Young Wives Group. For over 60 years Nan has served as vice President and President and has also served on the Kirkcaldy Presbyterial Council Committee. For a number of years Nan has been our Guild Link Co-ordinator with Lenzie Union Guild, arranging events, lunches and a get together with Lenzie, so we could all meet each other at least once a year to enjoy the friendships we have made with the ladies from Lenzie Guild. In December of this year, we celebrate 30 years of our link with Lenzie Guild when we are looking forward to celebrating together.



Nan was presented with a long service badge from the Guild by Alison Davidson Guild Co - Convener thanking her for her devoted service and commitment to Pathhead Guild. She was also presented with a bouquet of flowers from Lisbeth Winter who is the second longest serving member of our Guild.

After the summer break, the first meeting of the Guild for our 2024 – 2025 session will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September at 7pm.

Alison Davidson



## Generosity and Giving

It's been just over a year since I started in the role of Treasurer at Pathhead. That year has been a challenging one with a steep learning curve but, as I settle in, I recognise the generosity of our congregation, not only in retiring offerings for special purposes or takings at the Summer and Christmas Fairs, but also in regular offerings and giving. We thank all of you who support your church in this way, it is most appreciated.

However, like everywhere else these days, it is becoming more and more difficult to balance the books with so many costs increasing and we are predicting a substantial financial loss by the end of this year. We are keeping a close eye on the finances and reducing costs where we can, but if we can offset some of this with an increase in income, it would make such a difference. Can you help? If you feel you can, then please do. Here are some ideas to consider.

If you already make a regular offering through either the Open Plate, Free Will Offering envelopes or bank standing order, is it possible to increase that giving, even by a small amount?

If you don't currently give regularly, would you consider it? This can be done by bank standing order or direct debit or by using our Free Will Offering envelopes. Any amount would help.

Whatever amount you give, no matter how you give, the value can be increased by 25p for every £1 given if you can sign up to Gift Aid, the only condition is that you are a taxpayer and pay more tax than is recovered in Gift Aid. If you make regular offerings but aren't already signed up for Gift Aid, please do so, there is no extra cost to the giver, but the church will benefit.

Sign up to EasyFundraising, a website which allows individuals to support charities when shopping online at a wide range of retailers. After registering, shopping through this website results in a percentage contribution being made to Pathhead Parish Church as your chosen charity. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/pathheadchurch/> and sign up for free.

If you need any further information or have any questions on any of the above, please speak to Moyra Kelly, Treasurer, or Hugh McKenzie, Gift Aid Convenor or email [moyrakelly@btconnect.com](mailto:moyrakelly@btconnect.com).

Please remember that Christian stewardship recognises that everything we have belongs to God and that we are called to care for all that God has given to us. The mission and life of the church is only possible because of the generous giving of our members and the wider community.

"Each one should give then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Moyra Kelly, Treasurer

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Each of you should give  
what you have decided in your heart to give,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
**for God loves a cheerful giver.**

2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV



WORD  
TO ALL