



Pathhead Parish Church Autumn Newsletter 2024

A Letter From The Manse

Dear Friends

My pastoral letter to you has been written on what is traditionally known as All Saints Day, when we remember the saints of the church both great and small, as well as reminding us that believing Christians are those saints who triumphantly march into God's Kingdom at the conclusion of their earthly journey.

All Saints Day marks the start of a period of considered reflection. The "hazy days of summer" (!) receding, in our memory, when the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer, our minds naturally turn to a state of reflection. Public Remembrance of the fallen and of the glorious dead provide moments to ponder, not only their sacrifice – but also the state of our world today. When we witness the horrors unleashed by conflict in the Middle East, the utter waste of human life in Ukraine and other conflicts raging around God's world, we recognise that peace and freedom is a privilege won at great cost and sacrifice. We continue to pray that universal peace is a goal worth aiming-for and not a long-lost dream, quietly forgotten.

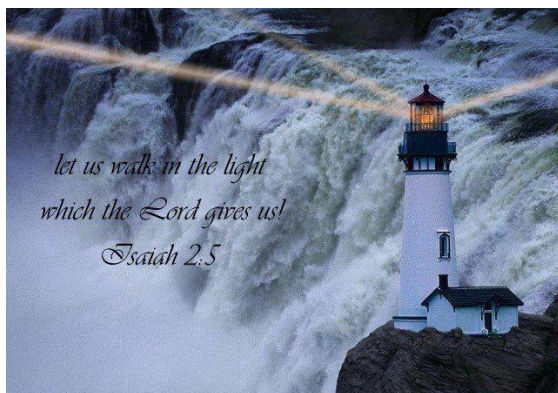
Acts of Remembrance always confront us with the folly of human hatred and the wisdom of Christ's words to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. So, we pray for people like Vladimir Putin, that he comes to his senses before he faces the final judgement. And we pray for people across the political divide in America that they will avoid inflammatory statements that only provide fuel and ammunition for extremists to flourish.

On a more joyful note, I am delighted to read that the Reverend Rosie Frew, formerly of Abbotshall Church, has been elected Moderator Designate of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Rosie was Presbytery Clerk for a number of years during her time in Kirkcaldy and I have every confidence that she will make an excellent ambassador for the Church during her tenure. The National Kirk has challenging times ahead and it tries to be a beacon of Christ's light in an often very dark world. I still believe that's a necessary and worthwhile aspiration. Whether we are great or small in number, society still benefits from the candle of faith, the seasoning of salt and the yeast that makes the whole batch of dough rise.

Christian hope is never vain – it helps us face each and every challenge, whether that be international, national or local. It helps us face the family crises and the times of personal doubt. It helps us overcome the daily grind and helps us to laugh when the toast falls on the floor the wrong way round! I, for one, am glad that Christmas is not so far away and at its heart, is the voice of the angels, proclaiming peace on earth - and goodwill to those who will embrace it.

Your friend and minister,

Andrew Donald



Family Register

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

Deaths

Mr Jim Broadley, Villa Atina Care Home (formerly 1a Orchard Road,
Kinghorn) – 19th August 2024

Mr Alistair McGilvray, Chapel Level Care Home, (formerly 20 Broomside
Kirkcaldy) – 25th August 2024

Added to the roll

Rebecca Letham by Profession of Faith
and

Heather Heggie by Resolution of the Kirk
Session



Flowers in Church

June 30/6 Flower Fund

July 7/7 Mrs H Galloway

14/7 Flower Fund

21/7 Mr & Mrs R Jackson

August 4/8 Flower Fund

11/8 Mrs N Dick

18/8 Mr & Mrs E Cockburn

September 1/9 Mrs M Glencross

8/9 Mrs H Easson

15/9 Guild

22/9 Mrs E MacDonald

29/9 Mrs M Anderson

October 6/10 Mr & Mrs R Jackson

13/10 Flower Fund

20/10 Flower Fund



Thank you to all who contribute towards the flowers in church, to the flower team and to those who help with deliveries.

Sheila White

Walk for Parkinson's – 6th October 2024

Did you know around 153,000 people live with Parkinson's in the UK? There are over 40 symptoms of Parkinson's. And....it is apparently the fastest growing neurological condition in the world!

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.

Well, a couple of years ago I would have been ignorant of those facts, but in the last year and a half, I've learned a lot! My husband, Jimmy, has Parkinson's....diagnosed after some problems with walking and balance. However, he now has medication and physiotherapy exercises which have allowed him to get back to longer walks and have less muscle problems.



On 6th October we, along with our daughter-in-law, Becky, took part in Walk for Parkinson's at Lochore Meadows. It was a dreich day but around 200 people participated.

Many church friends sponsored our walk and, as a family, we raised over £400 for Parkinson's UK. Parkinson's UK help fund Parkinson's nurses in hospitals as well as paying for research into treatments. There are three Parkinson's nurses in Fife, and they do a great job!

Enormous thanks to all who supported us!
Susan Harper



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 £327.95 which will be used by Church of Scotland to deliver and support a range of social care programmes in Scotland.

Blythwood Care Shoebox Appeal

Blythwood Care is a charity that's been organising shoeboxes filled with simple items like toiletries and wrapped like Christmas presents for over thirty years.



This community project was started when the charity noticed how basic things like toothbrushes and toothpaste could make a difference in the lives of other people.

Blythwood Care delivers filled boxes, giving them to people who have nothing, young kids who have never had toys in their lives or people who don't have soap to get showered.

Who receives the shoeboxes?

Blythwood Care sends the shoeboxes to anyone who's impacted by rejection, isolation or poverty. They're mainly distributed in countries in Eastern Europe: Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.



In 2022, the appeal produced 89,000 gift-filled boxes which were given to households, orphanages, hospitals and care homes in very low income communities. Many have gone to people affected by the war in Ukraine.

Blythswood's chief executive James Campbell said: "In 2022, the number of boxes was up by seven percent and this enabled us to send three lorryloads to Ukraine instead of two. We are grateful to everyone who fills a box and to the volunteers who assist with collection and checking. These gifts are practical and personal and mean so much to the people who receive them."



At the time of printing, we had 86 filled shoeboxes.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to our Shoebox appeal this year and thanks again to Kathy Glachan for organising this and to her husband Neil who delivers all the filled boxes to the drop-off point.

Harvest

Our Harvest service this year was held on Sunday 22nd September. As in previous years, donations of items 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 £388.20. Sinclairtown Primary School held their end of term Harvest Service in the church and they also supported Kirkcaldy Foodbank. With donations



from church members and from the school, we were able to hand over 41 bags of groceries which will help others.

We once again delivered plants to some members of the congregation who are unable to join us Sunday to Sunday.

Thank you to all those who helped deliver the plants.

News from the Guild

This has been an exciting year for us at Pathhead. As well as celebrating the 200 years of our Church, the Guild celebrated the 20th Anniversary of Guild week in September. Pathhead Guild with many of our church congregation enjoyed a soup lunch after our morning service to celebrate Guild week. Our thanks to everyone who supported this event.



This year the Guild will celebrate 30 years with our link Guild 'Lenzie Union'. For 30 years we have shared in worship at Guild meetings, Church services either at Lenzie or here in Pathhead, met for meals together in Edinburgh, Dundee Glasgow and on the 19th November we will meet together in Crossford for lunch to celebrate our link as Guilds over 30 years. There has been a strong bond of friendship between both Guilds. Lenzie ladies are part of our Guild family here at Pathhead and as we look at our Guild Strategy for 2024 – 2027 it is 'Let us build a house' our theme this year is 'Building on sure foundations'. Over the last 30 years, we have built a relationship with Lenzie Union Guild built on 'Sure Foundations'. As we meet together on the 19th November we will reflect on many events and share our memories from the past but most importantly we will look to the future and trust that God will guide us in whatever plans he has for our Guilds.

Our session started in September with favourite hymns chosen by our Guild members. We have had a variety of speakers from all walks of life whose talks have been both interesting and informative, and each one has given us a lot to think about and has taken us to many places we can only dream about. As we look ahead to 2025 our syllabus promises to be equally interesting. Moyra our Church Treasurer will speak about her visit to Iona, other speakers will be Fay Smith who has spoken at our meetings on previous occasions and enlightens us with her talks. In late January we will be entertained at our Scottish night with various entertainers. We look forward to our Project evening with Helen MacKenzie who will update us about the new projects which we will be supporting for the following three

years. On the 10th of March Colin Moore will be speaking to us about the real Sherlock Holmes.

As we approach the season of Christmas the members of the Guild wish everyone at Pathhead a Merry Christmas and God's blessing to you all for 2025.

Alison Davidson

200th Anniversary

As our year of celebrations drew to a conclusion, we once again took part in the Doors Open Days festival. We filled the foyer, church and chancel with information boards about the history of our church, the link with the church in Reimke, Bochum in Germany



and pictures following our year of celebration for our 200th anniversary. This year we also included a Lego hunt where the young (and sometimes not so young) had to find Lego figures hidden around the church. The main parts of the church also had information sheets using simpler language for our younger visitors. Over the two days, we had a number of people visiting, including one man who came over from Edinburgh specifically to have a look at our church organ and we were happy to let him have a go at playing.

Did you know that How Great Thou art is based on a Swedish poem written by Carl Boberg and first published in 1886? His inspiration came when he was walking home from church, listening to the church bells when a thunderstorm began, bringing strong winds, loud claps of thunder and lightning flashes. In a short time, the storm was over, a rainbow appeared and a peaceful calm returned.

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enlisted the help of Anne Deas to look over the words. There then followed a meeting in Anne's house where Alan, Anne and Linda Hugh all came together, the hymn was sung for the first time and now it is a popular item of praise at Pathhead.

We thank You Lord, for giving us this day
Two hundred years in Faith along life's way.
To build a church so strong
And a place we all belong
For it's Yours, and it's ours, so it's mine
Through all the length of time
That light will always shine
For it's Yours, and it's ours, so it's mine.



With our 200 years in mind, Mrs Nan Dick recently came across this poem in a magazine which she was reading and felt that it was very relevant to Pathhead.

The Old Church

Close the heavy wooden door
And leave the world behind;
Let the quiet enfold you
And suspend you out of time.

Feel your fears dissolving,
Feel your tensions leave,
Feel the peace descending
Now there's time to breathe.

Let the stillness soothe you,
Let it calm your fears,
Lay aside your burdens
For all are welcome here

There's wisdom in the silence,
There's comfort in the air,
Surrounded and supported
By two hundred years of prayer.

Ros McKenna



Going Forward

We now have to look forward to the next stage of our mission within the Pathhead area.



As you have been reading, a lot goes on at Pathhead Parish Church and there are also a number of organisations which meet in the halls both during the week and at weekends. All of this does not happen by itself. There are a lot of people who help out but we desperately need other people to spread the load so that it does not always fall to a few folk to run and organise everything.

So that we can continue to offer a place for the community, we need help. It might be you yourself, or perhaps a family member or even a neighbour who is looking to help others. You do not need to be a church member to help. Here are some of the teams which would love to welcome new members:

- Gardening Group
- Cleaning
- IT (helping with our online presence)
- Meal delivery (two of our team, not church members, have recently had to stop)
- Office admin
- Café



Please contact the church office on 204635 or by email to pathheadchurch@btconnect.com if you or someone you know is interested in helping,

Fabric

Since the summer, we have been busy up-dating some areas of the premises. Following the replacement of the doors at the office entrance on Harriet Street, the next big job was to replace the carpet in the corridor leading to the café.



This area gets a lot of footfall and so the decision was made to go with Marmoleum flooring which is hardwearing and will be easier to clean. We have had a lot of positive comments about the change and the area is certainly a lot brighter.



The walls have been freshened up and re-painted and new frames have been purchased thanks to a donation.



The next stage of the work will be to look at how to transform the entrance area just inside the door.

Within the last week, we have had to replace the boiler which supplies heating everywhere except to the church and the café. This has been a substantial outlay, costing £6720, but as you can imagine the old boiler had been well used over a number of years and it had proved impossible to repair.

Christmas Fair

Saturday 7th December 2 pm



Not long to go.....please get the date in your diary and tell all your family and friends!!

Santa will be there on the day



Kingdom Brass ensemble will be playing carols

Entry £1 for adults gives free entry to win a Christmas Hamper full of festive goodies.

Tea Tickets

Adults £3 Children £1.50

We are looking for donations for the Toy Stall. These can be handed in to the church office any day between 10am and 2pm

Dates for the Diary



Sunday 1st December – Communion 11am (1st in Advent)
Messy Church 2pm
Christmas Wreath Making Workshop 2pm

Saturday 7th December – Christmas Fair 2 pm

Sunday 8th December – UNICEF Jars of Grace and Gift Service 11am
(2nd in Advent)

Sunday 15th December – Morning worship 11am (3rd in Advent)
Kingdom Brass Concert 3pm (Tickets £10 on sale soon)

Wednesday 18th December – Café St Clair Christmas Meal 12 noon
£22 (Places are limited to 60 so please book now)

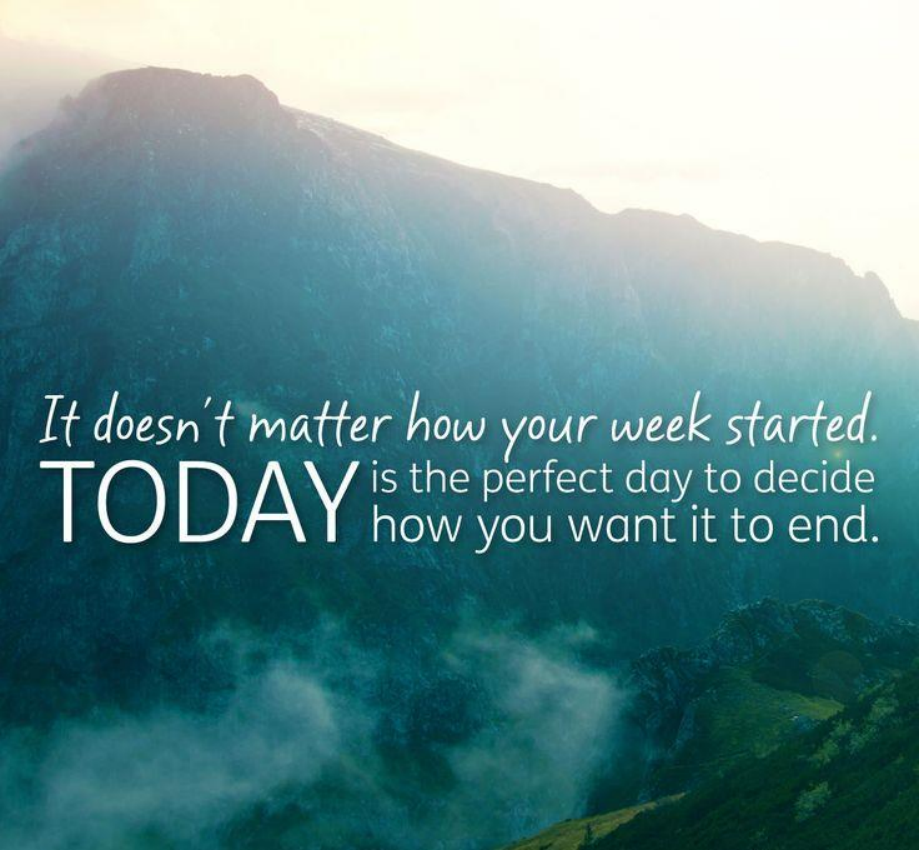
Sunday 22nd December – Morning worship 11am (4th in Advent)

Tuesday 24th December – Family Watchnight Lantern Service 6.30pm

Sunday 29th December – Joint Service with Town Centre Churches at
St Bryce Kirk

Please come along and join us at any of these. Everyone is welcome.





It doesn't matter how your week started.
TODAY is the perfect day to decide
how you want it to end.