



Pathhead Parish Church

Spring Newsletter 2025

A Letter From The Manse

Dear Friends

A lesson from flowers...

I am always greatly encouraged when I start to see snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils emerging in the garden. For me, they are always signs of Spring and also a sign that the season of Lent is never far away. This year March 5th marks the beginning of Lent, that forty-day period of preparation for Holy Week and Easter, not including Sundays.

Did you know that there are certain flowers which are associated with Lent and Easter itself? For example, the Rose, seen as a symbol of the blood He shed on the cross; the thorny stem, a poignant reminder of the crown of thorns that Jesus wore. Just as the rose blooms despite its thorns, Jesus endured the pain of the cross for the joy set before Him - the salvation of humanity.

“Just remember in the winter

Far beneath the bitter snow

Lies the seed that with the sun's love

In the spring becomes the rose.”

The columbine. The name "columbine" comes from the Latin for "dove", because the inverted flower resembles five doves clustered together. Interestingly, it's also the origin of the name, "Columba". The colours of

columbine - blue or violet and yellow, stand for passion and penance (violet); and for bright yellow, the Resurrection.

I was intrigued to learn that the Passion Flower derives its name from the Passion of Christ! According to Passion Flower expert breeder, Myles Stewart Irvine, back in 1600's, Spanish Christian Missionaries in South America, explained each part of the flower with the story of the Passion of Jesus Christ. It was known by the Spanish as "La Flor de las cinco Llagas" or the 'The Flower With The Five Wounds.' 'Passionis' referring to (Christ's) suffering.

Five sepals and five petals: the ten Apostles who neither betrayed Jesus (like Judas) nor publicly denied Him, like Peter.

Purple: the colour of penance and sacrifice.

Three stigma: the nails piercing Jesus' hands and feet.

Five anthers: His five wounds.

Circlet of corona filaments: the crown of the thorns.

Three-pointed leaves: the Holy Trinity, the same yesterday, today and forever.

The Vine: God's attachment to the earth.

So, there you have it – a little Easter sermon in three flowers! May they help us all to consider the great love of Jesus and the joy He brings to every season. A blessed Easter to you all when it comes, as it surely will!

Your friend and
minister

Andrew Donald.



Family Register

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

Deaths

Mr Jim Samson, 105 Ravenscraig, Kirkcaldy – 14/12/2024



Added to the Roll

by Certificate of Transference

Mrs Barbara Linton

Mr James Williamson

Rev. Dr. Graham D. S. Deans & Mrs Marina Deans

Mrs Margaret Motion

Flowers in Church

December 2024 8/12 Mrs N Dick & Brown Family

Mr & Mrs A Hugh

January 2025 14/1 Mrs M Glencross

26/1 Mrs E MacDonald

February 2025 2/2 Mrs A Scott

Mrs E Duncan

9/2 Mr & Mrs R Jackson

16/2 Flower Box

March 2025 2/3 Mrs H Easson

Thank you to all who donate for flowers in the Church each week.

Sheila White

Christmas At Pathhead

Following the successful opening of our Christmas Fair in 2023 by Kingdom Brass, the decision was made to invite them back in 2024. Their Christmas music helped put people in a festive mood and was enjoyed by everyone who came along.



Thank you to Santa and his elf who both managed to find time to come along and visit us on the day.

The final total raised was £2981.90 which will be used to help maintain the fabric of the church and halls.



Almost 70 people enjoyed a Christmas Meal



Wreath making workshop

Supporting Others

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal
95 boxes

Jars of Grace

£326.79

R.A.F Benevolent Fund
Poppy Scotland
£120 each

Fife Women's Aid
£230.30

Gift Service
102 Gifts given to Fife Women's Aid

Thank you all for your kindness and continued generosity.

Thank you

We are grateful for gifts recently given to the Church by Mrs Ann Mitchell and Mr James Williamson. Ann has gifted a wooden cross and Jimmy a wooden lectern and two wrought iron flower stands along with floral arrangements.



Giving Day – Sunday 16th March 2025

As Christians we recognise that everything we have comes from God – we are just stewards of these gifts and so we each have a responsibility to support our church through our regular giving; and regular giving from members of the congregation is the financial backbone of the Church.

Why are we asking for money?

The reason for this is threefold. Firstly, while our income has increased this year (which is again a cause for celebration) unfortunately our costs have increased beyond our income level. Electricity and fuel have been a major factor in our deficit. Our halls are fully utilized throughout the week (again a good thing) but some of this activity, particularly the café, has been subsidised because we see it as significant to our community outreach.

Secondly, despite having very generous members who give in so many different ways, our income base declines due to the reduction in congregational membership. While our membership decreased from 261 to 258, we know that the trend requires increased income from less members.

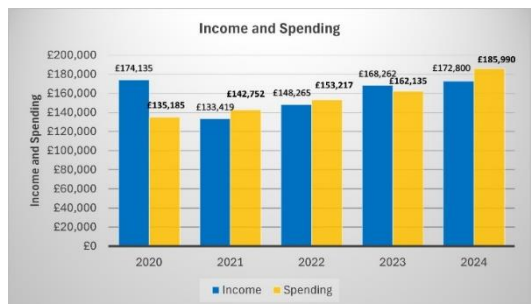
Thirdly, this past year, we have had a number of one-off expenditure items. Three of these larger purchases have been:-

1. New boiler – £6720.
2. New flooring for corridors - £4608.
3. New desktop computer for the projector system - £500.

Below is a table of our income and expenditure as found on the OSCR charities regulator website, which provides the scale of our challenge. With faith we believe we can meet our challenges, but we require your help.

Annual Information Submission History

Year End	Income	Expenditure
31 Dec 2020	£174,135	£135,185
31 Dec 2021	£133,419	£142,752
31 Dec 2022	£148,265	£153,217
31 Dec 2023	£168,262	£162,135
31 Dec 2024	£172,800	£185,990



After worship on Sunday 16th March, you are invited to a Soup and Sandwich lunch, after which there will be a small financial presentation, following which, there will be an opportunity to donate your gift offering.

With our grateful thanks,

Andrew Donald, Minister

Moyra Kelly, Treasurer

Giving of Your Time

Giving to the life of the church can also be by giving of your time. There are many ways in which you can help during the week at Pathhead. Many people do help out and many who have helped, now feel that it is time for them to take a rest and allow others to step in. Spreading the load and not leaving it to a few to run, organise and keep groups within the church going, would be a great help.



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|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gardening | Flower Rota |
| Cleaning | Sunday Tea Duty |
| | Saturday Coffee Mornings |
| Outreach | Office Administration |
| Ongoing Maintenance (Fabric) | |

If you feel that you could help out with any of these things please speak to Andrew Donald (Minister), Linda Hugh (Session Clerk), your own elder, or email pathheadchurch@btconnect.com



Easter Services



Palm Sunday 13th April Pathhead Parish Church 11 am

Tuesday 15th April Carmelite Monastery 6.30 pm

Maundy Thursday 17th April Pathhead Parish Church
Communion Service 6.30 pm

Good Friday 18th April Dysart St Clair 6.30 pm

Easter Sunday 20th April Pathhead Parish Church -
Communion Service 11 am



News from the Guild



So much has happened in the Guild since our last update in the Church newsletter.

We spent a lovely afternoon with our friends from Lenzie Union Guild in Crossford to celebrate 30 years as a link with the two Guilds. We had a lovely lunch together and shared many happy memories with each other,

We have had some very interesting speakers this year, Moyra Kelly took us on a trip to Iona, a Scottish evening was held with a light supper, and entertainment by Gordon Suttie and Gordon Cox ending our evening with a sing along around the Scottish Islands. Faye Smith gave an interesting talk on the many shops and bags we used while we were shopping along Kirkcaldy High Street in yesteryears. This brought back many memories to a lot of our members. Helen MacKenzie came along and gave us information about our new Guild projects which sees new life as we start our new projects for the next three years. They are:

‘Playful Beginnings’. Working together for 3 years to support families at Sunflower in Edinburgh and Daisy Chain in Glasgow to ensure infants have the best possible start in life by developing strong relationships between parents and children.

‘Bibles for Bairns’

To help raise funds for Bibles so that every child born in Scotland has the opportunity to hear stories from the Bible.

‘Build My Church’ is an initiative to establish a Christian Church and social centre at the heart of the residential district Bulgarka, in the city of Sliven Bulgaria.

‘Operation Hope’ hopes to support 2,000 people in around 100 villages in Upper Egypt each year. Operation Hope helps families who are facing extreme poverty and marginalisation. They are provided with beds, toilet facilities, kitchen appliances as well as food and other basic utensils.

Over the next three years we trust and believe these four projects will bring hope, joy and love to everyone who is involved with them. Each of these projects are a very important part of our Guild here in Pathhead. We pray that through our fundraising and with your help, we can continue to do all we can to support each project.

The Church of Scotland Guilds throughout Scotland raised the grand total of £ 545,230. 63 for our last projects which ended on the 31st December 2024. We thank everyone who gave so generously and gave of their time supporting these projects to make this possible.

Alison Davidson (Guild Convenor)

New Boiler – The Benefact Trust

As you will already have read earlier in this edition of the Newsletter, we have had to replace a boiler which provided the heating to all the premises apart from the Café and the church itself. Unfortunately, the previous boiler was found to be beyond repair and so we were left with no option but to source a replacement. The cost of the replacement was £6720. Fortunately, Angus Hugh, our Fabric Convenor, had attended an online Webinar by a charity called The Benefact Trust who award grants to Christian organisations.

We are happy to let you know that a successful bid was made for a grant to help towards the cost of the boiler. We are extremely grateful to The Benefact Trust who awarded us a grant of £2600. All the groups and organisations using the halls are happy to once again have warm, comfortable meeting spaces.



Long Service



At a recent Church service, Angus Hugh, Linda Hugh and Peter Martin were presented with Long Service Certificates marking 30 years as elders.

Warm Space for Everyone

There is still time to come along and join us on a Wednesday anytime from 11 am – 3 pm. Why not pop along even for a short time? You can make your visit as long or as short as you like.

- Free tea/coffee, biscuits/cakes
- Chill and chat
- Dominoes/Board Games
- Jigsaws
- Bring your own activity



This really is meant for everyone – why not pop along and bring a friend.

The warm space meets every Wednesday in the Rosslyn Room and will be running until the end of March.

Oh Lord

Thank You for spring, the
season of Your expression of joy!
Let every bloom remind me of
Your grace. Let each sunny day
bring light to my soul. As I
spring ahead let these months
give birth to warm thoughts
and kind gestures.

Amen

