



Pathhead Parish Church Autumn Newsletter 2025

A Letter From The Manse

Dear Friends

Autumn brings with it many changes and it appears the same for church matters. This month I want to explain a change initiated by Presbytery, which will have a bearing on our own congregation. Over the past couple of years, the Presbytery has been following the policy of the national church to initiate many Church Unions, in order to help recover a deficit in its budget and to more closely match the availability of ministers with congregations. In Kirkcaldy, this has already led to the union of the four town centre congregations. For Pathhead, the adjustment passed at the September Presbytery, is a Deferred Union with Dysart St. Clair.

So, what does a Deferred Union entail? While I continue as your minister at Pathhead, there is no change to the status of the present charge. In other words, you continue to have me serve as Minister at Pathhead Parish Church. However, at the point of my retirement, demission or translation to another charge, the Presbytery would affect a union between the two congregations, and the united charge would be formed under a new name.

Obviously, the Presbytery has to ensure a smooth transition when such a change happens and so Dysart St. Clair and Pathhead have been asked to enter into discussion now to determine what the new charge and Union would look like. We are also being encouraged to form closer links with our neighbouring congregation to pave the way for this eventual change. In the Presbytery Plan document, the Presbytery has stated that this process must begin A.S.A.P.. Therefore, we are under the instruction of the higher court to actively engage in this process.

Gayle Lennon, who many of you will remember during her ministry training at Pathhead, is currently the Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Officer and she will be addressing the Kirk Session at its next meeting to explain how the two congregations ought to move forward. It is likely that a small group will be tasked with early discussions between the two congregations. As minister at Pathhead, I cannot be part of the discussion that takes place but I will continue to forge closer relationships with our neighbouring congregation, looking at how we can work together and promote joint services, particularly at key times in the Christian calendar such as Christmas and Easter, perhaps learning from the model of the new town centre charge, which is known as Langtoun Central Church. There will be more information to digest as this process moves forward, and I will aim to keep you as fully informed as possible.

Your friend and Minister

Andrew Donald



Family Register

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

Deaths

Mrs Ann Mitchell, Methilhaven Home, (formerly 9 Loughborough Road,
Kirkcaldy) – 18th July 2025

Added to the roll

By Certificate of Transference –

Mrs Irene Thomson

By Resolution of Session – Mrs Amanda Youell



Flowers in Church

June 15/6 Mrs N Dick

22/06 Mrs J Farrell

29/06 Flower Box

July 6/7 Mrs P Collins

13/7 Mr & Mrs R Jackson

20/7 Flower Box

August 10/8 Mrs N Dick

17/8 Mrs E Macdonald

31/8 Flower Box

September 7/9 Mrs H Easson

14/9 Mrs S Clachers

21/9 Guild

28/9 Miss A Deas



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

Sheila White

“What’s the meaning of this?”

Acts 2:12

A number of people have asked me about the hymn that was sung at the end of the Service on Pentecost Sunday earlier this year – so here is the story of how it came to be written. It was a reflection on the text quoted above, concerning the response of the crowds who were amazed and perplexed by what they had just witnessed. They were asking one another, “What’s the meaning of this?” And that was the text for the day’s sermon.

When searching through *Mission Praise* for a suitable hymn with which to conclude the service, my eyes alighted on number 521, “O teach me what it meaneth” by Lucy Ann Bennett (1859-1927) – which I’d only ever sung once – at a Good Friday service almost forty years ago. It was unknown to me even then; and the words struck me as being rather old-fashioned – but they did set me wondering as to whether I could come up with something better that might be more suited to what ought to have been a more joyful, albeit puzzling situation.

Using the same meter as in Lucy Bennett’s text, I also wanted a more inspiring tune than the rather bland melody of RUTHERFORD. My preference would have been for the vigorous melody of ES IST EIN ROS’ ENSPRUNGEN, which has been reinstated in the fourth edition of *The Church Hymnary* (2005), but since that is not in *Mission Praise*, I settled for DAY OF REST by James W Elliott (1833-1915), which has long been associated with the hymn, “O Jesus, I have promised” – a hymn that was sung when I joined the Church as a young First Communicant in 1970.

Since becoming a member of the Hymn Society of Great Britain & Ireland in 1993, I have been encouraged from time to time to produce new hymn texts and even tunes (as and when the Spirit has moved me). All are now covered by the CCL Licensing scheme.



With a slight amendment to the second verse, here is the text of the new hymn:

1. O teach us, Lord, the meaning
Of what took place that Day
When came the Holy Spirit
Proclaimed by prophecy,
To strengthen the Apostles
Who thought their cause was lost;
But what a transformation
Occurred at Pentecost!
2. The courage that had failed them
Dramatically returned;
Their confidence grew stronger
As faith within them burned.
And tongues which had been silenced
And paralysed with shame
Defied their critics' scoffing,
The Gospel to proclaim.
3. They understood the meaning
Of what was then revealed;
God's purpose of salvation
Could not remain concealed.
So may we go, empowered,
To let the news be known
Till all God's people worship
Before His Heavenly throne.

Crossreach

Many thanks to Margaret Glencross who for a number of years has arranged the sale of Crossreach Christmas cards and calendars. Margaret has now decided that she is no longer able to undertake this task on our behalf. We are grateful for all the work Margaret has done and for all the money raised over the years for the work of Crossreach. Crossreach Christmas cards and calendars will still be available for order as Faye Grubb has agreed to take over organising the sale of cards and calendars. Thanks to all those who purchase goods. The money raised will be used by Church of Scotland to deliver and support a range of social care programmes in Scotland.



Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal

This year, we will be supporting the Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal again. These shoe boxes will be distributed by Blythswood to schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes and to households in very low income communities. They will go to eight different countries – Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and the Ukraine.



If you wish to help, you can do so in a number of ways:

- Use the leaflet provided in the church or obtained online at Blythswood Care, showing what items are required to fill a shoebox and return to the church no later than 2nd November. (You do not need to get every single item but ensure you tick which ones are in the box.)
- Donate money to help fill a shoe box. (Either hand in to the church, put in the collection plate in an envelope marked Shoe Box Appeal, give directly to myself – Kathy Glachan – or donate online to Blythswood Care.)

- Donate any of the items listed on the leaflet e.g. hat, scarf, gloves, underwear, socks, toiletries, small toys. (There is a box in the church foyer to put them in.)
- Hand in empty shoe boxes or spare wrapping paper.
- Pray for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Kathy Glachan (Shoe Box Appeal Co-ordinator)

Harvest



Our Harvest service this year was held on Sunday 28th September. As in previous years, donations of items were made for Kirkcaldy Foodbank. Hugh Mackenzie delivered a full shopping trolley of donations to Kirkcaldy Foodbank on Monday morning.



Envelopes were made available for a special collection for the Disasters Emergency Committee Middle East Humanitarian Appeal, which includes Gaza. At the time of printing, the total collected is £295.



Thanks to those who delivered indoor mini rose plants to church members.

News from the Guild

Our Guild meetings have now restarted following the summer break. Our opening meeting saw members enjoying a Beetle drive and then on the 29th of September, we had our dedication and communion service which was led by Rev Andrew Donald.



On Sunday 28th September, around 60 people gathered in the large hall after the church service for the Guild Soup and Sweet lunch.



There was a choice of lentil, cream of cauliflower or broccoli and stilton soup, followed by apple pie, trifle, carrot cake or meringue and fruit. I'm sure a number of people needed a little nap on Sunday afternoon! Thanks to all the members who made soup, served the

tables, washed the dishes and tidied up afterwards. £333 was raised which will go towards the Guild projects.

Between now and Christmas, there is a busy programme including a talk on jewellery, The Great Lakes States of the USA and Christmas carol singing. New members are always welcome, so please feel free to come along and join us. We meet fortnightly on Mondays at 7 pm. If you would like more details, please speak to Alison Davidson or any Guild member.

The Guild is working with The Scottish Bible Society on the project 'Bibles for Bairns'. Registrations are now open for babies born in 2025. Bibles for Bairns is a programme by Scottish Bible Society for babies to receive a free toddler Bible on their first birthday, and other free gifts every year until their 5th birthday when they will receive their own children's Bible! Check out The Scottish Bible Society's website for more details.



Messy Church

Thanks so much to everyone who joined us a couple of weeks ago for a team meeting. To try and generate discussion and ideas, parents and grandparents of children who attend Messy Church, were also invited along to the meeting. It was great to spend time together and talk about what we're doing at Messy Church.



We looked at each of the Messy Church values (Christ-centred, hospitality, all-age, creativity and celebration) and spoke about what we think we do well under each one - and then what we could do better and improve in relation to each value. There was so much to thank God for in the positive things we identified, and lots of ideas about how we could improve things - some of which were about reintroducing some things we did before but have stopped more recently.

Recently we were awarded a grant by Abbotshall Care, the employer of Linda Wilkie who comes to Messy Church. Elaine and Linda went to the presentation last week, where Elaine Brown received a cheque for £300 for our Messy Church.



The next Messy Church meeting is on 26th October. Please come along and give it a try, everyone is welcome, no matter what your age!



Summer Fair

It now seems a long time ago, but we held our annual Summer Fair on Saturday 14th June. There were a lot of worried people around in the morning as the weather was not good and it looked as though it was going to rain all day. However, as 2 pm drew near,



Ready and waiting for the opening of the fair.



the skies cleared, and the rain stopped. There was a great atmosphere and the hall was busy and bustling with people looking for things to buy.

The police who had agreed to come along, didn't quite make it for 2 o'clock



but they arrived later and children enjoyed meeting the police officers and sitting in the police car before the team received a call and had to leave.



Congratulations go to Mr Vince Casey who won the hamper full of picnic goodies.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way, setting up stalls, serving, tidying up or coming along to buy to support our efforts. As a result a magnificent total of £2519.77 was realised. This money will go to the Fabric Fund which allows us to continue to maintain the halls, manse and church building.



Mid- week Friendship Group

Our Wednesday Group, meeting for a chat, coffee and friendship restarts on Wednesday 8th October 10 am – 1 pm. We would love to see as many people as possible coming along and you can help us come up with a clever name for our group! You do not have to come for the whole time, pop in whenever suits and perhaps enjoy some lunch in the café too.



Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 6th December at 2 pm.

Kingdom Brass will once again be playing and Santa will be coming along too.

Kingdom Brass Concert

Another event which has proved very popular is the Kingdom Brass Christmas Concert. The proposed date for this is Sunday 7th December in the afternoon. More details will be released soon and information will be put on the church website, just Google Pathhead Parish Church.

Café Christmas Meal

Our very popular 3 course Christmas lunches are always fully booked very quickly, therefore the decision has been taken that this year, the lunch will be served on two days. The dates are Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December. Tickets costing £25 will be available soon.



*The grass withers and
the flowers fall, but
the word of our God
endures forever.*

Isaiah 40:8

forever