



Pathhead Parish Church

Spring Newsletter 2026

A Letter From The Manse

Dear Friends and co-workers for Christ's Kingdom:

As I write, there are signs of spring all around us. The days are stretching out, light lingers a little longer in the afternoon, and buds, once tightly closed, are beginning to open. What seemed dormant through the winter is quietly stirring into life again. There is something deeply biblical about that. Resurrection rarely begins with noise. It often begins underground.

Recently, a report entitled *The Quiet Revival*, drawing on research by YouGov in England and Wales, has suggested a growing openness to faith among younger generations. While we must be careful not to overstate the case, the findings point to something hopeful: a noticeable rise in interest in prayer, church attendance, and Christian belief among young adults.

That should encourage us here at Pathhead Parish Church. Trends south of the border do not always replicate themselves in Scotland, but neither are we isolated from wider cultural movements. If younger people are asking spiritual questions in England and Wales, we may reasonably hope that similar stirrings are present here too, perhaps quietly, perhaps beneath the surface, but real nonetheless.

The phrase "quiet revival" is telling. Revival does not always arrive in dramatic fashion. Sometimes it looks like a conversation after a baptism. Sometimes it sounds like a thoughtful question at a funeral. Sometimes it appears in a family who haven't attended for years but feel drawn to step through the church doors again.

One of the key insights of *The Quiet Revival* is that churches which meaningfully engage with their communities are best placed to recognise and nurture this openness. In other words, mission begins not with

programmes but with presence. It involves listening, building relationships, and creating spaces where faith can be explored honestly.

Here at Pathhead, we have long sought to find imaginative and welcoming ways to connect with those who may not regularly attend worship yet remain spiritually curious. Whether through special services, community events, pastoral care, or simply being visible and accessible in the parish, we recognise that our calling is not only to gather on a Sunday but to serve throughout the week.

As many of you know, a Deferred Union with Dysart St Clair Church forms part of the Presbytery Plan. Alongside that, Presbytery has asked us to produce a five-year Action Plan covering every aspect of our congregation's life and witness. That invitation is not merely administrative; it is missional. It asks us to reflect prayerfully and practically on who we are, what God is calling us to be, and how we are to serve Christ in this place.

This process will require the involvement of the whole congregation. We will need to think carefully about priorities for mission, stewardship of our buildings, environmental responsibility, and accessibility. Being a church fit for outreach means asking honest questions: Are our premises welcoming? Are they sustainable? Do they enable all generations to participate fully?

Two examples already under consideration are the possibility of installing solar panels to reduce our carbon footprint and exploring the feasibility of a lift between the sanctuary and the halls to improve accessibility. Both ideas reflect a desire to care-well for creation, for older members, for families with young children, and for those whose mobility is limited. In different ways, they speak of a church looking outward and forward.

Spring reminds us that renewal is rarely instant. Growth takes patience, nurture, and faith. Yet the same God who brings life from winter soil is at work in His Church. If there is indeed a quiet revival stirring in our land, then our task is to be ready, rooted in Christ, open in spirit, and willing in service.

Your friend and minister,

Andrew.

Family Register

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

Deaths

Mrs Annie Dobbie, Camilla House Care Home (formerly 3b Mill Street) – 16th December 2025

Mrs Dora Connolly, Kirkcaldy – 67 Ravenscraig, Kirkcaldy - 4th March 2026



Added to the Roll

by Resolution of Session

Sergio Sottili, Sheena Smith and Liz Irvine

Flowers in Church

'Always loved and forever missed'



December 2025	14/12	Guild		
		Mrs K Walker		
		Mrs E MacDonald		
January 2026	18/1	Mrs K Samson	25/1	Flower Box
February 2026	1/2	Flower Box	8/2	Mrs A Scott
	15/2	Mrs N Dick	22/2	Mr & Mrs R Jackson
				Ruth Welensky
March 2026	1/3	Flower Box	8/3	Mrs H Easson
				A & L Hugh & Family

Thank you very much to all who contribute to the flowers and to those who help with deliveries. Sheila White

Christmas At Pathhead

It may seem a long time ago but December saw another successful Christmas Fair at Pathhead. It was a busy day with lots of people enjoying the day.



Thanks once again to members of Kingdom Brass who came along to open the fair and play throughout the afternoon.

Congratulations to the prize winners

Hampers: Jennifer Munnoch, Gordon Thomson and Rachel Johnston

Hunt The Snowman: Georgia Wylie

Name The Elf: Elsie Roy

Christmas Cake: Cathy Williamson

Song Quiz:

Elizabeth Brannan



The final total raised was just over £3000 which will be used to help maintain the fabric of the church and halls. A huge thank you to everyone who helped us reach this grand total, whether you donated, served or purchased on the day.



Around 100 people enjoyed a Christmas Meal served over two days. Meals were served by volunteers from Technip FMC.

In December, we also had our annual Kingdom brass concert in the church. It was a great afternoon of music and entertainment by both the main band and their junior band.



A 'Scratch Nativity' service saw members of the congregation take part in a nativity service – costumes were optional!



Basis of Deferred Union

Earlier this year, a letter was given to all members of Pathhead Parish Church making you aware of Presbytery's plan for a union to take place between Pathhead Parish Church and Dysart St Clair. As you will all now know, a Steering group made up of members of Pathhead and Dysart St Clair has been working towards a draft proposal for the Union of Pathhead and Dysart St Clair.

Working along with both Kirk Sessions, a draft proposal for the Deferred Union has now been drawn up. This draft now has to be approved by the Law Department and Fife Presbytery. Once they have approved the document, and it has been formally approved by both Kirk Sessions, it will be shared with all members and adherents in both churches for their approval.

Linda Hugh

Session Clerk

Supporting Others

Pathhead Church members have always been very supportive of others and 2025 saw a number of causes being supported by our members. Here is a summary of contributions made to other organisations:

UNICEF (Jars of Grace)	£402
R.A.F. Benevolent Fund	£120
Poppy Scotland	£120
Christian Aid	£440
DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal	£507
Guild Soup Lunch (for Guild projects)	£333
Crossreach	£377
Charity Quiz Night (Guide Dogs Scotland)	£440
Fife Women's Aid	£401
Cancer Care	£136
Total	£3276

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal 86 boxes filled and donated

Women's Aid 113 gifts donated at Christmas

Thank you so much to all those who continue to help us support others – an important work of mission for our church, demonstrating our commitment to caring for others, both in our own community and in the wider world.

Thank you all for your kindness and continued generosity.



Dona

If you've not heard the name 'Dona' being mentioned over the last few weeks, it's not the latest volunteer to join the Church ranks but is something which can benefit our Church and allow us to keep up with modern trends. Dona is a self-service digital collection plate which collects in-person contactless and Chip and Pin card donations as well as having the ability to register for Gift Aid, and provides us with an alternative means of giving and donating. More people are using bank cards rather than cash these days and, with this in mind, we want to ensure we are not left behind in today's ever-growing cashless society.



The Dona device is currently situated in the foyer of the church and can be used by anyone. The device is a touch screen, and the default screen will show a list of possible funds e.g. General, Fabric, Flowers, Retiring offering. When selected, a screen will appear showing suggested offering amounts e.g. £5, £10, £15 etc but any



amount of your choosing can be donated by selecting 'Other Amount'. It's then simply a matter of tapping your bank card on the card device and the offering will be taken. If Gift Aid on the offering can also be made, we ask that you take the time to fill in the appropriate details to allow this to happen but this only needs done once, the details will be remembered for future transactions.

Dona is available to use as a way of giving your offering each Sunday but can also be used for retiring offerings and special events. Use of the device is by no means mandatory, it is simply another available option and if you are happy with your current means of giving, then please continue in that manner. However, we would encourage you to give Dona a try at some point and see how easy it is to use. If help is needed or you have any questions about using the device, please ask, I will be happy to help.

Thank you

Moyra Kelly Treasurer

Stamp Appeal

For many years the Church of Scotland has collected used stamps which have then been sold to raise money for different projects. Mrs Nan Dick was initially the contact for Pathhead and over the years, Nan made many trips to the church offices in Edinburgh to deliver stamps on our behalf. With the declining number of letters being posted, the Church of Scotland has decided to end this project which has been running for the past 56 years. Last month Angus and Linda Hugh took 9.5 kg of used stamps which had been handed in, over to Glasgow where they were delivered to the Presbytery offices.



The Stamp Appeal has been a pivotal part of World Mission Council, collecting much needed money for projects. From 1995 to 2024 an amazing total of £96,459.67 has been raised for projects such as the HIV programme, Mount Olivet Boys' home in Jamaica & Cayman Islands and more recently to support the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza.

What is Coming Up at Pathhead

Guild Coffee Morning Saturday 21st March 10 am – 12 noon

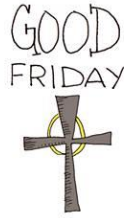
Chase away the winter blues and join us for our Spring Ceilidh, featuring Nackytoosh Ceilidh Band, on Friday 24th April at 7 pm. Tickets Adults £10 Under 16 £1 available soon.

Our annual Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 6th June at 2 pm.

Why not join us for our regular Saturday Coffee Mornings on the first Saturday of each month 10 am – 12 noon.

Please pop these dates in your diary.

Easter Services



Palm Sunday 29th March Pathhead Parish Church 11 am

Tuesday 31st March Dysart Carmelite Monastery 7 pm

Maundy Thursday 2nd April Dysart St Clair
Communion Service 6 pm

Good Friday 3rd April Pathhead Parish Church 6 pm

Easter Sunday 5th April Pathhead Parish Church
Communion Service 11 am



News from the Guild

We have enjoyed a variety of speakers at our Guild meetings this session, we have also enjoyed fun and fellowship together as we have met to hear more of God's love for each one of us.



Since the start of this year our speakers have included Dave Stewart who spoke about the Men's Club, telling us how it began and also letting us know of the work they are involved with. Rev Richard Houston gave an interesting talk on his calling to become a minister. He enlightened us with some funny stories he encountered as a minister. Pauline Wilson from the Church of Scotland Stewardship team spoke to us about what we give to the church financially and also looked at what we give back to God by using the talents he has given to each one of us in our service to God within our church.

We still have four Guild meetings before our summer break they are our project evening when Helen MacKenzie will give us an update on our present projects. An evening of Art Painting with May Snaddon and Marrison Carr will talk about her work with those suffering from Dementia, In April we will have our Easter Egg Drive and our session closes in April with our A.G.M. led by Rev Andrew Donald.

The Guild Coffee morning will be held on Saturday 21st March 2026. We hope to see you all then. We leave you with the Guild Motto 'Whose we are and whom we serve' Which is taken from the story of Paul being shipwrecked in Malta from Acts 27 verse 23.

Alison Davidson

Guild Convener



Friends of Pathhead

Many of you will remember Reinhold Koch from Bochum who was very involved in helping set up the link between the church at Pathhead and the church in Bochum. Reinhold is now retired from the ministry and living in Dortmund. Congratulations to Reinhold and his wife Ramona on the birth of their first grandchild, a little girl Clara Sophie Koch born on 12th December.

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Rev Richard Baxter. Richard completed his probation with Rev John Thomson here at Pathhead and he and his wife Sheryl were very involved in the life of the church during that time. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this time.

Congratulations to Rev Gillian Paterson, who was recently invited to a ceremony in Kirkcaldy for the presentation of an award for the Community Hub operating at Wellesley Parish Church, Methil. Gillian completed part of her training at Pathhead and remains a good friend to many within the congregation.

'Blether and Biccies'

There is still time to come along and join us on a Wednesday anytime from 10 am – 1 pm. Blether and Biccies is open to everyone and we would love to have more people join us. We do have a number of 'regulars' who often ask why more people don't pop in. So 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



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

