

Pathhead Parish Church

Summer Newsletter 2026

A Letter From The Manse

Dear Friends,

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.” (Charles Dickens: A Tale of Two Cities)



That quote seems to be very applicable when we think of our world today. For those who enjoy sport (and particularly football) it might be regarded as the best of times. Some Scotland fans who went over to Boston to support their national team, have described it as the best party ever! But if the team doesn't secure the long-awaited qualification from the group, it might soon feel like the worst of times... again!

For those who have long campaigned for a ban on Social Media for under 16's, the news that it will now be implemented might feel like the best of times. For those who view it as an infringement of parental rights and responsibilities, it might be viewed as the worst of times. Government support, or government interference? A safeguard or a censorship? Big step forward, or just Big-brother?

For those who see the many advantages of Artificial Intelligence, this might feel like the dawn of a bright, new era. For those who tremble at the thought of AI replacing their jobs, it might feel like the end of civilisation as we know it. A few billionaires becoming ever-richer, while the masses are given the opium of leisure to dull their senses. Electric cars, promising a clean future –

but what will happen to all those lithium batteries once their usable life is ended?

The pace of change in our world is truly breathtaking, so it's harder than ever to know if we should be optimistic or pessimistic about the future. Will the ending of wars in Ukraine and in the Middle East lead to a period of true and lasting peace, or is the world set upon a downward spiral of never-ending conflict?

We might feel the same about church matters too. Will the multiple closure of churches and the massive restructuring of the Church of Scotland, lead to growth, or have the decisions of General Assembly and Presbytery accelerated the rate of decline? Or is the truth not closer to the fact that we have been living in a secular climate for far longer than we have been prepared to admit? Perhaps, through misplaced nostalgia, it just took the Kirk longer to admit it and to respond to it. For Pathhead, the Deferred Union has been adopted and the challenge for both congregations will be to ensure that it becomes the spring of hope and not the winter of despair.

Your friend and Minister, Andrew.



Family Register

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

Deaths

Mrs Margaret Nicol, formerly Glebe Park, Kirkcaldy – 1st June 2026

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

Baptisms

Grace Alison Catherine Coleman

Isaac Scott Andrew Doak

22nd March 2026



Added to the Roll – by Certificate of Transference
Mr Mark Murray

Mr Stewart Milne and Mrs Eirene Milne

Donations for flowers

April

5/4 Mrs C Durie
12/4 Mrs K Walker

June

14/6 The Brown Family
21/6 Mrs E Macdonald



Thank you to all who kindly donate for flowers and to those who deliver them.

Sheila White

Congratulations

Many congratulation to two couples who have recently celebrated their Platinum Wedding Anniversaries

George and Marie Dick – 24th March 2026

John and Lisbeth Winter – 2nd June 2026



Events

As usual, we have been busy holding events throughout the past few months. Since the last Newsletter was published, we have had a Quiz Night, a Ceilidh and our annual Summer Fair.



This year, the Quiz Night was held in aid of the charity LoveOliver which supports children with cancer and their families. 17 teams battled it out on the evening with 'Relatively Speaking' finishing in 1st place closely followed by 'C.A.N.' in 2nd and 'Sally Ann's' in 3rd place. A total of £735 was raised for LoveOliver.



In April, we held a ceilidh with music by the Nackytoosh Ceilidh Band. Although numbers were slightly down on our last ceilidh, those who came along enjoyed an excellent evening of music and dancing.



We even had a five year old and a two year old who lasted the pace better than most of the adults by being on the floor for every dance!



Our annual Summer Fair was held on 6th June with a fire appliance in attendance for the children. Thanks to Katie, one of our Brownies, who got the day started with a bang.





Thanks to all those who helped setting up and clearing away, baking, serving teas, manning stalls and coming along to buy on the day. With your support we raised a magnificent £3553. This money helps us continue the work of the church in the community.

Our annual Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 5th December – get the date in your diaries now!!



Looking Back and Looking Ahead – to Our Congregational Picnic

One of the highlights of our church calendar last year was our congregational picnic and outing to Markinch Parish Church. It was a day filled with fellowship, learning, laughter and, thankfully, plenty of refreshments!

On our arrival, we were warmly welcomed by members of the congregation, who generously shared the history of their church and parish with us. Their knowledgeable guides brought the story of the church to life, helping us to appreciate the rich Christian heritage of the area and the generations of faithful worshippers who have gathered there over the centuries.

Following our visit to the church, we made our way to the church hall where we enjoyed a picnic together. The simple pleasure of sharing food, conversation and friendship, made the day so enjoyable. The afternoon was rounded off with some singing, which left us with many happy memories.

This year's congregational picnic is provisionally planned for August, and we would very much welcome suggestions from members and friends of the congregation. Perhaps you know of a place with an interesting church, a pleasant walk, a local attraction, or simply somewhere that would provide a good setting for fellowship and relaxation. We are open to all ideas.

When making suggestions, however, please bear in mind that any walk would need to be suitable for people with a wide range of walking abilities. We want everyone to be able to participate and enjoy the day together. Accessibility, suitable paths and reasonable distances are therefore important considerations.

We also need to remember that this is Scotland, and even in August the weather can sometimes have plans of its own! Ideally, any venue would offer some indoor accommodation or a suitable alternative should the rain decide to make an appearance. If you have a suggestion for a destination, walk, church visit or picnic venue, please send an email to our church office. pathheadchurch@btconnect.com

We would be delighted to hear your ideas.

Congregation Action Plan (CAP)

All congregations are now required to have a plan agreed by their Kirk Session and Presbytery and our Kirk Session has begun to prepare ours.

This CAP is designed to help us develop suitable actions for our 5-year action plan. It should set out aims/objectives, timescales, notes of annual progress reviews and a “traffic light” status indicator in each of the following areas:

1. Worship & Teaching
2. Pastoral Care & Fellowship
3. Youth & Children
4. Local Mission/Community Outreach
5. Wider Mission
6. Finance
7. Communications
8. Property
9. Human Resources/Staffing

As a congregation we shall be considering these matters in the months ahead.

Andrew Donald

Minister



Our Wednesday ‘Blether and Biccies’ group has finished for the summer. We hope to start again perhaps in September but we really could do with a few more volunteers to help run the group. It is a space which is open to everyone for a couple of hours. People can come for a short time or stay longer if they wish and enjoy company, tea/coffee and have a chance to sit and chat or perhaps play a game of dominoes or scrabble etc. Please get in touch with the church office if you are interested in helping.

Do you like gardening?

[illegible]

If you are that person, or if you know someone who could help, please speak to

any member of the Gardening Team, Gordon Cox, Gordon Suttie or Diana Steedman and they will be able to give you more details about the work they do. You can also speak to any member of the Welcome Team on a Sunday morning, email the church at pathheadchurch@btconnect.com or pop into the church office Monday – Friday between 10am and 2pm.

Supporting Others

We continue to support Kirkcaldy Foodbank.



The Rainbows, who meet on Tuesday evenings in our large hall, helped out recently by bringing along donations.

The Rainbows have been working on their Commonwealth Sports Challenge Badge and to meet the 'Supporting the Community' part of the badge, the girls were asked to bring along a donation for Kirkcaldy Foodbank.



Thank you to the Rainbows for their support.

The trolley for donations is situated in the large hall.

Thanks to all who contributed to the retiring offering for Christian Aid's work. The total raised was £614



**DOORS
OPEN
DAYS** 2026

In September, we will once again be taking part in the Doors Open event. This year the event will take place on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September 2026.

Please check the Church website for details
pathheadparishchurch.co.uk

News from the Guild 2026



Guild members are enjoying a rest for the summer after our 2025- 2026 session of the Guild. This year we celebrate our 130th Anniversary 1896 – 2026. As a Guild we have seen many changes in the way the Guild has progressed from the time it began to the times we now live in. The Guild has always been involved with all the changes within the Church over the years. In the last year we have had Guild unions taking place around Scotland, Presbyteries amalgamating together, of which we have been involved in here in Kirkcaldy.



To celebrate our anniversary we met in Dunnikier Golf Club on Monday 8th June for our anniversary lunch to celebrate our 130 years as a Guild. We have plans for our future meetings and trust God will help us to express our love for others through our worship, prayer, actions and fellowship.

John and Lisbeth Winter celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary so at our lunch, Lisbeth was presented with an orchid plant from the Guild.



As our eldest member Lisbeth cut our cake which was appreciated by all the members.

The Guild meetings resume on Monday 14th September at 7pm.

Alison Davidson
Guild Convener.

Deferred Union

As you will already have read in Mr Donald's letter, the document for the Deferred Union has been adopted by both congregations. A vote took place in both churches on Sunday 10th May 2026 with only those physically present in both churches being eligible to vote. The results of the vote were:

Congregation	For	Against
Dysart St Clair	25	3
Pathhead Parish Church	66	13
Totals	91	16

Following the results of this vote, The Vacancy Procedures Committee for Fife Presbytery has now agreed to the Right to Call being granted. Going forward, a Nominating Committee will be formed (this was previously known as the Vacancy Committee). Their role will be to take the process forward after an advertisement has been placed for a minister. The Nominating Committee will be made up of members from both Dysart St Clair and Pathhead Parish Church.

Please remember that at this time there is no change to the situation at Pathhead, and no change will take place until such time as Mr Donald leaves for whatever reason. Until then, any minister appointed will become the minister serving Dysart St Clair, while Mr Donald will continue to serve Pathhead Parish Church. At the point of Mr Donald's departure (whenever this may be) the minister appointed and serving Dysart St Clair will become the minister of the joint charge.

Linda Hugh

Session Clerk



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You are never
too old to set
another goal or
to dream a new
dream.

C.S. Lewis