

Pathhead Parish Church Autumn Newsletter 2026

A Letter From The Manse

Dear Friends

Autumn has arrived and we are well into a busy schedule of events and activities. It is heartening to see that the life of our congregation is not just what happens on a Sunday morning. In September, we celebrated Fife Doors Open Days with a significant increase in footfall from last year, particularly on the Sunday. Visitors viewed information boards and learned about the history of our church, they sat and listened to our organists playing songs old and new; and they enjoyed refreshments while chatting to our elders. Children participated in a hunt for Lego figures and built their own Lego church. The church garden was a welcoming space as people entered the building and a banner announced our presence and our welcome to the local community. For me, this is how seeds of the Kingdom are sown and Jesus taught that some of those seeds will grow in ways we cannot measure.



presented at that service to mark this long-standing friendship and later an afternoon tea was enjoyed by everyone.

Sunday 20th was a celebration of 130 years of our Guild, with honoured guests, Renee Riddle, National Convenor and Helen MacKenzie, National Vice-Convenor of the Guild in attendance, along with our Guild Link Friends from Lenzie. A picture was



By the time you have read this letter, Harvest Thanksgiving will have been celebrated with an afternoon walk from the Pillars of Hercules to Falkland Church Hall (cakes 'n' all!). Well over 30 people signed up for this walk – which was a chance for mini-pilgrimage and a time to get to know others just a little bit more. Journeying in faith is a central theme in the Gospels – as we do so, we follow in our Lord's footsteps.

Journeying together was shared with our Episcopal Friends from St. Peter's, as they marked the 50th anniversary of their building with a special Eucharist. Their Bishop the Right Revd. Ian Paton, led the service as he bid a fond farewell, anticipating his retirement in a few weeks' time. Bishop Ian was again present as he addressed Fife Presbytery at its meeting on Saturday 19th September, introducing two new corresponding members from the Episcopal Church, a further example of growing ecumenical co-operation. At that same Presbytery, I was privileged to hear my name announced as Moderator Elect of Fife Presbytery, my duties beginning in February of next year.

All these things took place in just one calendar month of our church. For me, they are signs of life and hope in challenging times. Offerings in our church are up 5% on last year and bookings for our halls are up an incredible 25%. Several plans are underway this autumn, both for the fabric of our building and the general life of our worshipping community (in the congregational Action Plan).

God says in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," ... "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Let's take that message to heart and serve together, knowing that with every act of faith, the Kingdom grows in ways we could scarcely imagine.

Your friend and minister,

Andrew

Andrew Donald



Family Register

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

Deaths

Mrs Margaret Simpson, formerly 328 Overton Mains - 27th April 2026

Flowers in Church

July 5/7 Mrs P Collins
 12/7 Flower Box
 19/7 Mrs M Kinnear
 26/7 Flower Box

September 6/9 Mrs H Easson
 27/9 Mrs E Duncan

August 2/8 Mrs K Walker
 9/8 Mrs N Dick
 16/8 Mr & Mrs R Jackson
 23/8 Flower Box



Thank you to all who donate to the flowers, they are appreciated by all who receive them.

Sheila White



As new members of the congregation my wife and I wish to extend our sincere thanks to all who have made us feel so welcome, resulting in us quickly settling down and enjoying worship again at our "New Church" .

We both were very happy members of Bethelfield and then Linktown for most of our lives until the recent union of the three town centre congregations with Bennochry resulting in there being no CofS presence in the west end of Kirkcaldy. The union has been very difficult for most and unacceptable for some of us, many of whom cannot or do not now attend worship.

The warm welcome and friendship received from the good people of Pathhead Parish has however been of great support and has assisted us to regain our enjoyment and satisfaction in worship and the church family.

Many thanks and God bless you.

Stewart and Eirene Milne

Pathhead Parish Church are supporting the Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal



These shoe boxes will be distributed by Blythwood Care 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 support there are so many ways to do so:

- Use the leaflet provided in the church - or obtained online at Blythwood Care - showing what items are required to fill a shoe box and return to the church no later than 1st November. You do not need to get every single item but ensure you tick which ones are in the box. Remember to read the instructions on the leaflet carefully.
- Donate money to help fill a shoe box - either hand in to the church office, put in the collection plate in an envelope marked Shoe Box Appeal, or donate online to Blythwood Care.
- Donate any of the items listed on the leaflet. You can hand these in to the church office or place in the boxes provided in the church.
- Empty shoe boxes or spare wrapping paper is always useful. There are some empty covered shoeboxes available for those people who aren't able to cover one.
- Pray for all children and adults affected by poverty, trauma and exploitation and for the ongoing work of Blythwood Care.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Kathy Glachan (Shoe Box Appeal Co-ordinator)

Harvest



Our Harvest service this year was held on Sunday 27th September.

Donations were received on the day of items for Kirkcaldy Foodbank.

Once again, these were delivered to Kirkcaldy Foodbank the following day by Hugh Mackenzie.



A selection of indoor plants were purchased and delivered to members.

Thank you to those who delivered these plants which will bring a little bit of colour as the weather turns cooler.

Envelopes were made available for a special collection supporting those affected by the recent devastating floods in Nepal. The total donated so far is £400. Thank you all for your generosity.

Falkland Estate Walk

Sunday 27th September was a busy day, as after the Harvest Service, around 25 hardy folk from Pathhead braved the heavy rain and went for a walk from The Pillars of Hercules to Falkland Parish Church. Our age range was from 6 – 90 and it was great to truly have representation of the 'Church Family' coming together.



Fair to say that the weather could not have been much worse and even walking through the woods with the cover of trees, tested waterproof jackets and trousers to their limits. Some of us discovered that our waterproof jackets were not quite as waterproof as we thought! When we got to Falkland, a warm welcome awaited us at the parish church where we enjoyed tea, coffee and home baking. Thanks to Faye and Elinor. And unbelievably, the rain had stopped!



For many of us, it was the first time we had been in this church and the beautiful stained glass windows were much admired.

After refreshments, it was time to leave, some of us walked back while others were happy to accept a lift back to the car park to collect their cars. Everyone agreed that despite the weather it was great to spend time together in fellowship, walking and

chatting with others. Talk has already started about where next year's walk will be.



John and Rita Davie recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary

Susan Harper, Kate Walker and Margaret Bell have all recently celebrated 'Big' birthdays.

Please let any of the elders know if you (or someone else) has something to celebrate.

News from the Guild

Since 1997, the Guild has adopted a three year strategy to guide us in worship, study and project work. The Guild then focusses on a different aspect of that strategy each year.



This format has been chosen to encourage the Guild as it faces many challenges and opportunities in its service as women and men are encouraged to commit their lives to Jesus Christ. Each Guild member is encouraged to express their faith in worship, prayer and action.

The first theme was 'Let us Build a House', we considered 'Sure Foundations' then 'Living Stones'. Our final theme is 'Beyond the Walls' and during the year, we will consider how God uses us as individuals, to serve the people in our community as commanded by our Lord Jesus. Jesus instructs us to show love and care for those who are 'Beyond the Walls' of the guild and of the church.

We gathered for the first meeting of our new session on Monday 14th September which was a surprise evening. The 'surprise' was a quiz arranged by our secretary, Margaret Horn. Given the second line of a hymn, members had to work out the first line...easier said than done! This was an enjoyable evening for the first night back after our summer break. Our next meeting will be a service of Communion and Dedication on 28th September, led by Rev Andrew Donald.

The Guild meets every fortnight after 28th September on Monday evenings at 7pm. Come along and see for yourself what we do, make new friends and enjoy tea, coffee and fellowship.



Memorial Stained Glass



On Sunday 5th July, two stained glass memorial windows were dedicated. The panel on the left was commissioned by the late Isabelle Povey following the death of her husband.

This stained glass memorial window, is in memory of the late Isabelle Povey, who, among other things, served as a past President of Pathhead Parish Church Guild. Gifted with many talents, Isabelle had a deep appreciation for the arts. She was musically gifted, and her abilities took her onto the professional stage where she performed in several notable classical productions.

The window is of Saint Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Music and musicians. The window depicts the saint next to an organ. Saint Cecilia, was a Christian martyr of the Church.

We were fortunate to have Carole Robinson, the stained glass artist who designed and made the windows, join us for this special service.



Organ Repairs

Clip from Session Minute 5th May 1980

'The water damage to the organ has still to be repaired. It was felt that as the organ was installed in 1958 and not having a major overhaul since, that the state of the organ warranted it now. The session accepted in principle the estimate from Rushworth and Dreaper of £4,300. Further information

from the organ builder was asked for. An Organ Fund appeal may be launched.'

Session Meeting 14th October 1980

'The overhaul contract will begin early in January 1981'.

20th January 1981

'Work began on Monday 19th January 1981 and will take approximately 6 weeks. In about two weeks time it would be suitable to paint the wall at the back of the organ....The Moderator agreed to be in the Vestry on the following dates and times to receive donations from the congregation and an Appeal will be mentioned in the Newsletter'.



Fast forward 45 years and our church organ has again required some attention. The organ blower motor had stopped working and an engineer came from Glasgow to investigate the problem. The starter windings in the motor had failed and this resulted in the motor having to be removed and taken away for repair. The blower had to be disconnected and

dismantled by the engineers so that the motor could be removed and of course the motor is not situated in a place which is easy to access.

During the time that we were without the organ, the clavinova was played.

The total cost - £3533



Local news section in the Fife Free Press

Many of you will now have noticed and hopefully be reading our weekly news which is printed, along with the other local church's news in the FFP. Many people complain about the cost of Kirkcaldy's weekly newspaper and it is hoped that the addition of a Pathhead Parish article will now make the paper "well worth the money" and cheer you all up!

Please do not hesitate to tell our Session Clerk of any items you wish to be including.



Mid - Week Friendship Group

We hope to restart our mid-week fellowship group in the next few weeks. It is planned to run this on a Wednesday morning possibly from 11am – 1pm but we need more volunteers.

Could you spare a couple of hours to come along and pour tea and coffee, play board games or just sit and chat with other people? We hope that we can get enough volunteers so that the same people do not have to be there every Wednesday. If you think you can help, please speak to Linda Hugh or phone the church office on 01592 204635. Thank you

Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair this year will be held on **Saturday 5th December at 2 pm**. This is always a popular and busy event. There will be all the usual stalls, bottle stall, book stall, soft goods, Christmas stall, Cake and Candy etc. There will be some super prizes on the tombola and the £1 entry (adults only) will give you the chance to win a hamper of goodies. Teas and coffees with home baking will be served too.



Last year our children's activity proved popular and so there will be another activity this year.

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

Please come along and join us.

Café Christmas Meal

Our very popular 3 course Christmas lunches are always fully booked very quickly. The dates are Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th December. Tickets will be available soon.

Doors Open Days

**DOORS
OPEN
DAYS 2026**



We once again took part in the Doors Open Days on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September. We were very encouraged by the number of people who came along and had a look around the church. Displays had been put up about our history and archive material was available for people to look through. The organ was played by Ian Ogilvie on Saturday and by Alan Urquhart on Sunday. Tea, coffee and biscuits were also available.



For the children (and the young at heart), lego figures were hidden around the church, with some proving pretty tricky to find and some children built lego models.



A few adventurous, fit folk ventured into the bell tower and climbed the first set of stairs for a look around.

Altogether around 50 people came along.

Autumn is
GOD'S
WAY OF SHOWING
us how
BEAUTIFUL
change can be.

