

Appendix 2

TYNE VALLEY PARISH CHURCH ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2025

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3)

As we look back over 2025, we do so with a sense of gratitude, but also with a clear-eyed awareness of the season we are in. This has been a year of continued activity, but also one of reflection and recalibration, as we consider our place within a changing Church and a changing society.

Worship has remained at the heart of our life together. Week by week, in ways both large and small, we have gathered to seek the Lord, to hear His Word, and to encourage one another in faith. Alongside our Sunday morning services, we introduced two evening services each month in Pathhead, and across the year we shared in 121 acts of worship. These have included midweek services, Messy Church, and the special services that mark the seasons of the Christian year. Attendance has varied, as one might expect, but the pattern has been one of faithfulness—of a people continuing to gather, to pray, and to worship.

That life of worship has been sustained and deepened through our home groups and our Prayer Circle. These quieter settings continue to provide places of support, encouragement, and spiritual growth, where relationships are strengthened and faith is lived out more personally. It is also a particular encouragement that our prayer diary is now being used not only within our own parish, but internationally, extending that ministry far beyond what we might have imagined.

One of the most encouraging developments this year has been in our youth ministry. Through Impact Plus, we have seen steady and meaningful engagement across North Middleton, Pathhead, and Cousland. In North Middleton, that has taken the form of continued discipleship among young people already connected to the church. In Pathhead, it has meant building relationships with young people who have had little or no prior connection to Christian faith, and seeing those relationships deepen into real conversations about the gospel. In Cousland, we have seen a growing openness among families to the inclusion of Christian teaching. Alongside this, our work in local schools and our involvement with the Pathhead Youth Project have strengthened both our relationships and our presence within the wider community.

Our ministry with children and families has also remained strong. Messy Church continues to be a place of welcome and belonging, where families can engage with faith in an accessible and informal way. Many who come through Messy Church are now participating more widely in the life of the congregation. The Holiday Club at Vogrie brought together over thirty children for a week marked by energy, creativity, and the sharing of the gospel. That work was supported by a large and dedicated team of volunteers, whose willingness to give their time and energy made it possible.

In terms of governance, both the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board have worked steadily to maintain the life of the church while also preparing for what lies ahead. Work has begun towards moving from the current Model Constitution to the Unitary Constitution, and there has been a continued focus on strengthening the structures that support our ministry. Some important roles have now been filled, including that of Health and Safety Co-ordinator, though others—particularly in the area of fundraising—remain areas where further support is needed.

Beyond the gathered life of the church, our involvement in the wider community continues to be an important expression of our calling. Through work in schools, participation in local organisations, and initiatives such as Tea N' Chat, walking groups, and other community activities, members of this congregation continue to serve faithfully. Much of this work is quiet and often unseen, but it represents a steady and consistent witness in the places where God has set us.

As we look ahead to 2026, several priorities come into focus. There is a need to strengthen our financial and organisational structures, particularly through the development of fundraising. There is an opportunity to build further on the growth we are seeing in Impact Plus, and to continue to cultivate engagement across the parish. There is also a need to observe carefully and discern wisely as we develop newer patterns of worship, including the evening services. Above all, we seek to remain attentive to where God is leading us, and to respond faithfully.

And so, as we reflect on the year that has passed, we give thanks. Much has been done, and much of it has been carried forward quietly, through the faithful service of many people. It has been a shared work, offered not for recognition, but in love and in service to Christ.

We move into the coming year with hope—not because the path ahead is entirely clear, but because the One who calls us is faithful. And we trust that, as we continue to walk together in that faith, He will guide us, sustain us, and bring fruit from what has been sown.