

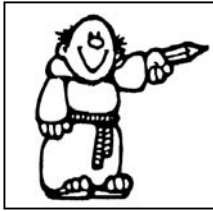
# News from the Pews



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## *From the Minister.*



Recently I was in Cracow, Poland. One of the treasures of the Cracow folk museum is Leonardo da Vinci's painting, 'The Lady with an Ermine.' According to the experts this is one of the most important works of western art.

The portrait of the 'Lady' is certainly captivating, exquisite and elegant and reveals the artistic genius of Leonardo da Vinci's incomparable creative mind, artistic ability, and self assurance. It wasn't always that way for the great man!

When Leonardo da Vinci was still a pupil, his elderly, well-known teacher asked him to finish a painting he had begun. Young da Vinci stood in such awe of his master's skill that at first he respectfully declined. But his teacher would accept no excuse. He simply said, "Do your best."

Trembling, Leonardo da Vinci took his brush and began. With each stroke, his hand grew more steady as the genius within him stirred. Soon he was so caught up in his work that he forgot his diffidence and timidity. When the painting was finished, the frail and weak master was carried into the studio to see it. Embracing his student, he exclaimed, "My son, I paint no more!"

We all have unique God-given abilities. Some of us however, feel inferior because we don't have as much talent as others. But we mustn't think that way. God doesn't hold us responsible or accountable for what we don't have. He wants us to discover and develop the skills and abilities we do have.

Of course, we can't all be a Leonardo da Vinci. But we don't have to be. The young Leonardo da Vinci was told, 'Do your best.' That's what's required of us. The great Duke Ellington was right, 'A problem is a chance for you to do your best.' Do your best and leave the rest to God.

See you in church.

*Alex*

## **Whan Jesus wis bapteezit**

Here is the blythe message o Jesus, Son o God, een as it is pit doon bi Isaiah the prophet—*Lo! I send oot ma messenger afore yer face, wha sall redd the way for His comin; the sang o ane cryin oot i the muirs, 'Redd the way o the Lord! Mak straucht his fit-roads!'*

Syne kythit John, bapteezin in the muirlands and preachin repentance bapteezment for the pitten-awa o sins. An thair gaed oot til John aa the countraside o Judea, an aa thae o Jerusalem, an they war bapteezit o him in the River Jordan, tellin oot their sins.

An John wis cleedit wi caumel hair, an had a lether girth aboot him; an he did eat o locusts an rock-hinny. An quo he in his preachin, 'Ane starker nor me comes efter me, the whang o whase shoon I amna fit tae lowt doon an lowse! I watter-bapteeze ye, but he sall bapteeze ye wi the Halie Speerit!'

An in thae days it cam aboot that Jesus cam frae Nazareth, i Galilee, an wis bapteezit o John in the Jordan. An he, comin straucht frae the watter, saw the Hevins apen up an the Speerit, like a doo, comin doon apon him. A voice cam frae abune, sayin, 'Ye are the Beluivit, ma son; in ye I delyte!'

An syne the Speerit led Jesus out intil the muirlauns.

(Frae '*A Scots Gospel*' bi Jamie Stuart)

**Source—Church of Scotland Website ([www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)).**

## From the Parish Register

### Baptisms

01.06.08 Sophie May Anderson  
01.06.08 Niamh Margaret Anderson  
22.06.08 Sophie Lauren MacDonald  
13.07.08 Hannah Mary McPherson



### Weddings

16.05.08 Christopher Morris & Yildiz Atay  
23.05.08 David Jones & Jane Forsyth  
24.05.08 David McNaughton & Karen Smith  
24.05.08 Vincent Fryars & Fiona Kilpatrick  
07.06.08 Christopher Howell & Nicola Mill  
06.08.08 Walter Smith & Elaine Ellwood

**Re-affirmation of Vows** George & Dawn Dalrymple

### Funerals

08.05.08	James Kelly	Edinburgh
22.05.08	Beth Barnes	Markinch
28.05.08	Sandy Robertson	Bonnyrigg
02.06.08	Tom White	Glenrothes
03.06.08	Harry Thomson	Leven
11.06.08	Harry Easton	Markinch
25.06.08	Sgt Craig Wilson	Royal Military Police
26.06.08	Tom Wilkie	Markinch
01.07.08	Isa Wallace	Markinch

**Remember !**  
**Communion Sunday 24th**  
**August 11am**



## The Rotary Shoebox Scheme

The Rotary Shoebox Scheme was intended to provide children of Iasi, in north-east Romania with Christmas gifts.

Gifts are now sent out throughout the year to many different countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Toys are especially useful all year round for Birthday presents in the Orphanages, Homes and Hospitals. All age groups, including teenagers, have welcomed the boxes.

In addition to Romania, Shoebox gifts have been delivered to Belarus, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Albania, Croatia and Kosovo.

Each year we now send around 60,000 Shoeboxes or gifts.

The strengths of the Rotary Shoebox Scheme over other similar schemes are:

1. It operates all year round.
2. The boxes are distributed to known contacts
3. We guarantee that every Shoebox goes to a deserving child or family.

### **Boxes can be filled with:**

**Toys** such as 'Matchbox' type toy cars, small bouncy balls, jigsaws, fluffy toys, dolls, colouring books, felt tip pens, Lego, yoyo's, etc.

The type of contents are indicated on the box top. In the case of toys, additional information as to the suitability for boy or girl, along with age group is also indicated. A card with the senders name and address, along with a photograph is also a nice thing to include.

**Teenagers-** Please remember boxes for teenage boys and girls up to the age of 18. Such as: make-up, toiletries, sportswear, scarf, gloves, hat, writing materials, deodorants, comb, mirror, football memorabilia, etc

**Household Goods** such as hand soap, toothpaste and brushes, envelopes, letter paper, biro pens, etc.

Toys are especially appreciated, since these boxes can be used for birthday gifts.

This box is also good for older folk, especially if a warm scarf or a pair of gloves is included.

**Please do not mix the contents of the boxes since this makes distribution difficult.**

# Christian Aid

Thank you to everyone who supported Christian Aid Week 2008, either by donating items or attending events your support was greatly appreciated. Markinch Parish Church will be sending a cheque to Christian Aid this month for at least £3061.77. Anyone wishing to help with Christian Aid Week 2009 please contact Tracy Thomson - 01592 775752.

Christian Aid's website - [www.christinaid.org.uk](http://www.christinaid.org.uk) explains the work of Christian Aid as well as explaining where your money is spent. The article below was taken from their website.



## **Why we do what we do**

**Our strapline is: 'We believe in life before death'.**

What does this mean? Who are we? How is Christian Aid different from other international aid agencies? What is it we do and why?

## **History**

A little history may help answer these frequently asked questions. Christian Aid was founded in 1945 when Christians wanted to offer relief and reconciliation in post-war Europe. From its early days Christian Aid has assisted people and communities on the basis of need, regardless of race and religion. Today it is the official relief, development and advocacy agency of 41 sponsoring churches in Britain and Ireland, and it is part of the worldwide church community. Christian Aid is, self-evidently, a Christian organisation. The board, appointed by the sponsoring churches, is trustee of the vision, purpose and values of Christian Aid, supplying a mandate to work for poverty eradication. We are active in some of the world's poorest countries.

## **What we believe**

Christian Aid's work is founded on Christian faith and powered by hope. It acts to change an unjust world through charity, providing practical love and care for neighbours in need. It is driven by the gospel of good news to the poor, and inspired by the vision of a new Earth where everyone lives in justice, peace and plenty.

## **We help those in need**

Christian Aid follows the teaching of Jesus Christ, who commanded his followers to love their neighbour and work for a better world.

Jesus identified with the poor, excluded, weak, sick and oppressed. He said he wanted everyone to have life, abundantly, hence, 'We believe in life before death'.

Christian Aid is prophetic, outspoken and on the side of the poor and marginalised; we are agents of change.

Christian Aid believes everyone is created equal, with inherent dignity and basic rights. When people are dehumanised - denied food, water, dignity, justice, education, healthcare and chance for an income - Christian Aid stands with them in the struggle to realise their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

We are inspired by great Christian visionaries like South African anti-apartheid and humanitarian justice activist Desmond Tutu, US civil rights movement leader Martin Luther King and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, participant in the German resistance against Nazism.

We believe in the just and sustainable use of the earth and its resources so that the greed of one generation will not create poverty for the next. We are proud of our Christian identity and heritage. It defines who we are and how we work.

### **Hope into action**

Whether they have a faith or not, people support Christian Aid because they know we have the courage and integrity to take the difficult positions. They expect us to deliver good-quality aid that tangibly helps people in need. They know we are a bold, incisive, effective, efficient, results orientated, growing and ambitious organisation that equips and encourages people to put their faith into action.

All our work is based on the spirit of partnership. We want people to pray for us, to act, to give and to get involved with us in a variety of ways. Together we can have great influence and impact. We will educate and mobilise people from all kinds of backgrounds to build a global movement that can change the course of history.

Our faith tells us that ending poverty and suffering is not simply a dream but an imperative from God. It gives us the confidence to turn this hope into practical action.

Working with others is vital to the nature and purpose of Christian Aid, and we take seriously interfaith and intercommunity dialogue and cooperation. We are part of the commitment by churches in Britain and Ireland to help build a more inclusive, just and sustainable world community: one world - our world - where all people can live with dignity.