

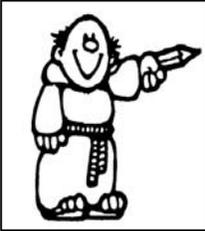
# News from the Pews



THE NEWSLETTER OF MARKINCH PARISH CHURCH

VOL. 85 FEB 2010

## *The First Word - From the Minister:*



Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). During Lent Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, moderation and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Here are three books to help you think and reflect during Lent. They are all available from Amazon (remember to use the link on the church website) or any good bookshop.

### **The Gospel of Luke by William Barclay**

The gospel of Luke has been described as 'the loveliest book in the world.' William Barclay said that of all the gospel writers, the one he would have most liked to meet was Luke. A doctor by profession: compassionate and kind, Luke saw people as they truly were. His gospel is inclusive - it is the Gospel for the Gentiles (non-Jews), the Gospel of Prayer, the Gospel of Healing, the Gospel of Women, the Gospel of Praise and the Gospel of the Poor.

### **The Last Week by Marcus Borg & John Crossan**

What was the last week of Jesus' life about? And what does it mean for us now? Marcus Borg & John Crossan, (two of today's leading New Testament experts) offer what they believe is the real story of Jesus' final week in Jerusalem. Using the Gospel of Mark as their guide, they present a day-by-day account of Holy Week - the most sacred time of the Christian year. This book reveals the radical and little-known Jesus who gave up his life to protest against power without justice and condemn the oppression of the poor by the rich and privileged. In *The Last Week* we encounter a passionate and appealing Jesus who invites us to follow him today.

### **Our Sound is Our Wound by Lucy Winkett**

In this book Lucy Winkett explores two basic questions. How we listen for the voice of God within the soundscapes of our lives? And how do we find our own voice? Our lives are lived against the backdrop of an internal and external soundscape. The sounds, noises and music with which we are surrounded in modern life have spiritual implications. Also, there is a soundtrack within us that plays constantly through memory, dreams, anxiety or thought. Lucy Winkett explores these soundscapes, and how we listen for the voice of God within them.

Enjoy your Lenten reading. See you in church.

*Alex*

### **A message from our new Community Police Constable**



Hello, I'm PC Mark Brown and have recently been appointed as Community Police Constable for Markinch and Star. You may have seen me over the last few weeks pounding the pavements of Markinch trying to get to know the local people.

Recently, Fife Constabulary has recognised the need to engage more with it's communities in order to better understand and act on local issues. In response to this, over 40 new Community Constables have been appointed across Fife with one main directive: Community Engagement.

Every two months I will be holding a meeting to hear your concerns about the community and update you on progress I have made. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd March in Markinch Parish Church Hall. I welcome you all to attend and look forward to meeting with you in the near future.

## From the Parish Register

### Baptisms

13.12.09 Ava Anne Logue  
03.01.10 Alex Finlay Forsyth

### Weddings

05.12.09 Mr Roger Hastings & Miss Elaine Flett  
27.12.09 Mr Adam Watson & Miss Holly Nelson  
03.01.10 Mr Gregor McColl & Miss Tina Dawson

### Funerals

13.11.09 Mr Robert Innes  
21.11.09 Mrs Marion Stoddart  
25.11.09 Mrs Ella Crombie  
04.12.09 Mr Younger Ross  
15.12.09 Mrs Isobel Kirk  
20.12.09 Mr John Brown  
20.01.10 Mr James Hutchison  
26.01.10 Mrs Jean Goldie



## Communion Sunday

You are most likely aware that we have recently discontinued the use of the Communion Cards.

You are invited to join with us in celebrating  
**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
on Sunday 28th February 2010  
at 11.00 am.

## **GIFT DAY 2010**

This year the Church's Gift Day will be on the 28th February. As we are also celebrating Communion on the same day, we would ask those members who have not yet signed their Gift Aid declaration to arrive a few minutes earlier so that they can register their details on their way into the Church.

Given that the improved lighting and the redecoration of the Church have now both been completed, the Congregational Board has identified the following 2 items in need of attention. These are the replacement of the boiler used to heat the hall and the repair/ replacement of several of the hall windows. Both of these items are likely to be expensive to undertake and the congregation's assistance will be needed to help to fund these projects. All the money donated during the Gift Day, along with that brought in during other fund raising events, will therefore be used to meet the costs involved.

One way of maximising your donation to the Church is to sign the Gift Aid declaration on the envelope. Other Churches are making maximum use of this scheme to recover monies from the Government.

Remember, people who receive pension income and who pay tax on their pension are eligible to participate in the Gift Aid scheme. This also applies to anyone who is taxed on investment or savings balances.

Taxpayers who complete a tax return can now also donate via their return to the Inland Revenue. If you require details on how to donate by this method please contact John Wood as you will require the church's special code to insert on your return. Please also contact John for any other questions you may have on Gift Aid.

Help us to boost your donations and regular givings by getting a cash injection from the taxman!!

## **M A R K I N C H      Y O U T H      C L U B**

The youth club which is held in Markinch Church Hall on Thursday's between 6.30pm - 8pm urgently requires more volunteers. Anyone interested in working with youngsters aged 10 - 16 years please contact Tracy Thomson on 01592 775752

## Standing Orders

Did you know that you can pay your Church offerings by Standing Order direct from your bank account.

This method of offering has the advantages that you don't have to bring your offering to the Church on a Sunday.

If you are absent for any reason, your offering will still go to the Church. It also saves the Church money as we need to buy fewer sets of Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes.

If you would like to pay your offering by this method then please contact Nancy Munro who will help you complete the necessary form



ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that delivers emergency shelter, warmth and dignity to people affected by disaster worldwide.

Each box supplies an extended family of up to 10 people with a tent and lifesaving equipment to use while they are displaced or homeless. The contents are tailored depending on the nature and location of the disaster, with great care taken sourcing every item to ensure it is robust enough to be of lasting value.

Following Communion on Sunday 28th February (Gift Day & Souper Sunday) there will be a ShelterBox on display in the Church Hall. John Kerr from Rotary International will be on hand to answer any questions and explain about ShelterBox.

# CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – A WAY WE CHANGE THE WORLD

Ever wondered why we do Christian Aid Week?  
Here are seven good reasons why we're involved...

- 1** We are joining with more than **20,000 churches** in an unparalleled act of Christian witness to our communities – showing them we care about justice and poor people.
- 2** Christian Aid has a vision – an **end to poverty**. By being part of this week we're not only funding life-changing projects, we're helping tackle the root causes of poverty – helping to change the world for good.
- 3** The church has an **amazing heritage** of working for justice. Christian Aid Week has run every year since soon after the Second World War – demonstrating the church's faithfulness to helping the poor.
- 4** In these **difficult financial times**, the world's poorest people need our time, prayers and financial support more than ever. Christian Aid Week helps us give people the opportunity to be generous.
- 5** Around **300,000 volunteers** give their time to deliver envelopes door to door and put on events. We are part of this movement for change.
- 6** We get **money for nothing!** Every taxpayer who signs a Gift Aid declaration on an envelope is giving Christian Aid 28 per cent extra – making even more development work possible in the world's poorest countries.
- 7** Christian Aid has successfully campaigned on 'dropping the debt', carbon-declaration reform and trade justice. Christian Aid Week helps world-wide **structural change** to take place.



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 9–15 May 2010

We believe that poverty is a scandal and that we can really do something about it.

To find out more about how you can get involved, just ask your Christian Aid Week representative or go to [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org)

**POVERTY – LET'S END IT**

## Fundraising 2010.

Following a recent fundraising meeting, it has been decided that we will have 4 major fundraising events in 2010, along with a few social events. The fundraising effort for this year will be ring fenced for the fabric fund as there are a number of major projects which need to be undertaken this year, such as the replacement of the windows in the church hall. Please put the dates below in your diary, and we hope that these events will be well supported. All further details will be intimated in the weekly bulletin.

### Fundraising.

28 <sup>th</sup> February	Gift Day, a display in the hall with an extra 'Soup Sunday'
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Coffee Morning with Tombola and Sales Table
1 <sup>st</sup> September	Raffle Tickets will go on sale
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Coffee Morning with Tombola and Sales Table

### Social Events.

9 <sup>th</sup> April	Quiz Night
Summer	Garden Party (any volunteers?)
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Meal at Balbirnie Golf Club (£20 per ticket)

## Church Website

The Markinch Church website and the separate news 'blog' have proved to be popular, with a combined total of over 42000 unique visits to the websites in 2009 alone, many from overseas.

We have decided to modernise the design of the site and on or around the 1st March we intend to bring the new website online. The address of the website will remain unchanged as [www.markinchchurch.org.uk](http://www.markinchchurch.org.uk) but the more recent news blog will now be integrated into the revamped site and will eventually be discontinued as a stand-alone site as it is at present.

As well as the weekly intimations, news, photographs and events there will be the opportunity for individuals to contribute and comment.

We hope you will like the new site but if you have any comments please feel free to pass these on to [comments@markinchchurch.org.uk](mailto:comments@markinchchurch.org.uk)

Dear friends,

It is my challenge for 2010 to combine my favourite activities of spending time with friends and cooking, with fundraising for the church fabric fund.

I plan to start a dinner tree, by which I mean a social activity for people to attend alone, in couples or with a guest, which will grow organically and allow us all to see more of each other in the coming year, while raising money in the process.

I will be hosting a number of dinner parties over the coming months, at which everyone will be invited to provide their own alcoholic beverages, a good time will be had by all, and then at the end of the evening, everyone will be invited to donate an amount of their choice into the fund.

The growth element of the activity is that everyone in the company will then be invited to host their own event, preferably with friends and family from outwith the congregation, in order to widen the income potential for the fabric fund.

If you hold an event, you must hand the money raised to myself within four weeks.

This activity is not restricted to dinner either, if you feel that you would rather host a lunch, wine tasting or morning coffee event, that is also encouraged, so that everyone can be included.

If you wish to be included in the initial round of events or require further information, please forward your names to me either by phone (07801279899) or email (maz7731@aol.com).

Marianne Sankey

Church website [www.markinchchurch.org.uk](http://www.markinchchurch.org.uk)

Latest News and Intimations [www.news.markinchchurch.org.uk](http://www.news.markinchchurch.org.uk)