

# News from the Pews



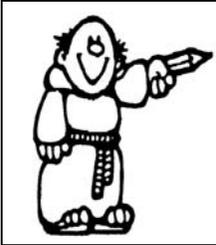
THE NEWSLETTER OF MARKINCH PARISH CHURCH

VOL. 87

AUG 2010

## *From the Minister*

### The First Word



Johann Sebastian Bach, the 18th century composer, was a devout Lutheran. He often annotated his manuscripts with the initials "J.J." - Jesu Juva (Help me, Jesus) and ended them with "S.D.G." - Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone, the glory). The seventeenth-century violin maker Antonio Stradivari was of a similar mind. He made such quality instruments that they are still prized and in use today.

Every violinist dreams of playing/owning a Stradivarius.

Stradivari said: "When any master holds 'twixt chin and hand a violin of mine, he will be glad that Stradivari lived, made violins and made them of the best ... If my hand slacked I would rob God...since he is the fullest good..."

Bach and Stradivari understood that their gifts were unique and God given. Their pride in their work was not just about composing and craftsmanship but about living and working to the glory of God.

It begs the question - as individuals and as a church do we strive to give of our best to the glory of God?

See you in Church.

*Alex*

## **Change in Office**

By the time you read this magazine the Kirk Session will have met to appoint a new Session Clerk.

I originally took up the post on the 22nd May 2002 during a time of vacancy with the thought that my tenure may be short as I was sure the new Minister would wish to appoint his own management team once settled into post.

Eight years later, with a number of achievements and significant changes within the Church now consigned to the history of time, I consider the time is right for me to move on and allow another elder the opportunity to hold the office and take us forward.

I have enjoyed my time as Session Clerk and the various challenges it has presented. I will leave the post with happy memories. My support for the church and the new Session Clerk will continue as I revert back to my role as Elder. I trust you will support the new Session Clerk too.

God Bless

Ian Watt

## **Memorial to the Markinch boys lost at Ibrox in 1971**

You may be aware that the existing memorial stone is currently in the process of being restored thanks to the generosity of Rangers FC supporters across the world. Provisional arrangements are being made for Rev Alex Forsyth to conduct a dedication ceremony for the new memorial stone on Sunday the 29th of August at 12.15pm. The ceremony will take place at the memorial site which is located at the top of Park View in Markinch, directly across from the entrance to Balbirnie House Hotel.

Anyone who would like to attend this ceremony will be made very welcome. As the work on the stone is not yet quite complete you should check the church website for confirmation of the dates nearer the time.

## **Markinch Churchyard Burial Register 1799-1854 now online.**

This 222-page Burial Register is now available for download from the *Genealogy* page on our website. It contains details of those interred in Markinch Churchyard between the years of 1799-1854. It was compiled by members of Fife Family History Society (FFHS) and re-formatted into this current version by Ian Gourlay.

## From the Parish Register



### Baptisms

- 04.07.10 Connor William John MacCuish  
04.07.10 Billy Kevin Mark MacCuish  
04.07.10 Ami-May Iris Anne MacCuish

### Weddings

- 10.06.10 Andrew Forrest & Christina Murray  
12.06.10 Craig McLuckie & Stephanie Blyth  
03.07.10 John McIntosh & Kylie Hodge  
10.07.10 David Wood & Nicola Floyd  
16.07.10 Thomas Mann & Gillian Mackay  
17.07.10 Michael Ross & Susan Towers  
23.07.10 Moray Stewart & Sarah Hannay  
24.07.10 Brian Patrick & Caroline Muir  
03.08.10 James Murray & Doina Sterian

### Funerals

- |          |                    |          |                   |
|----------|--------------------|----------|-------------------|
| 14.05.10 | David Evans        | 28.06.10 | John Lambert      |
| 19.05.10 | John Dewar         | 01.07.10 | Cathie Puddifoot  |
| 19.05.10 | Eddy Groves        | 08.07.10 | Tommy Kinnear     |
| 20.05.10 | Margaret Barbour   | 15.07.10 | Alexander Philp   |
| 21.05.10 | Jock Duncan        | 29.07.10 | James Thomson     |
| 28.05.10 | Margaret Henderson | 29.07.10 | William Stevenson |
| 31.05.10 | Margaret Binnie    | 02.08.10 | Margaret Walker   |
| 01.06.10 | Bill Brown         | 09.08.10 | Joe Bellingham    |
| 06.06.10 | Leah Lothian       |          |                   |
| 08.06.10 | Ann Philip         |          |                   |
| 10.06.10 | Rodderick Macleod  |          |                   |
| 10.06.10 | Tommy McIntosh     |          |                   |
| 22.06.10 | Wattie Blyth       |          |                   |
| 24.06.10 | Mima Archibald     |          |                   |



We recently had a collection of unwanted clothes, bags, bedding and curtains which were collected by 'RAG BAG' and we received a cheque for £380. Thanks to everyone who made this a great success. We hope to start a collection next year again so please keep your unwanted items until then.

### **Church Hall Garden**

We are pleased to inform everyone that the garden at the rear of the Church Hall has been landscaped. We hope to use the garden for future Church events as well as being used by the Youth Club.

### **Christmas Meal**

Yes, Summer is nearly at an end so it's time to plan for Christmas! First on Santa's list is the Christmas Meal which has been arranged for Friday 10th December at Balbirnie Golf Club. Anyone wishing to attend please contact Tracy Thomson 01592 775752 or email [tthomson01592@hotmail.com](mailto:tthomson01592@hotmail.com) to reserve a place.



**On Sale** - Models of our Church are on sale priced at £19.99 each. All profits will be used for the refurbishment of the Church buildings.

Please contact **Tracy Thomson 01592 775752** to place an order.

### **Communion Sunday**

You are invited to join with us in celebrating  
**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
on Sunday 29th August 2010 at 11.00 am.





## Community GAINS and Markinch Parish Church Youth Club

Help make a real difference to community safety in Glenrothes area

Community GAINS is a new initiative. YOU have the opportunity to decide how to spend £30,000 of public money in the Glenrothes area.

We are looking for projects which make people feel safer in the community. Applications must be received by Friday 2nd July 2010. For more details, please contact Pat Spence.

Tel: 08451 55 55 ext 440641 Email: [pat.spence@fife.gov.uk](mailto:pat.spence@fife.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.fifeirect.org.uk/communitygains](http://www.fifeirect.org.uk/communitygains)



Making Fife's Communities Safer

## Community GAINS

Glenrothes Antisocial behaviour Initiatives and Neighbourhood Schemes is a new initiative in the Glenrothes area.

Glenrothes is one of five pilot areas chosen by the Scottish Government to try participatory budgeting - where the public has the opportunity to decide on how to spend a set amount of public money. Glenrothes area has £30,000, and is co-ordinated by Fife Community Safety Partnership.

Projects must make people feel safer in the community. It could be a way to tackle crime or antisocial behaviour, help people feel safer at home or on the roads, or build community wellbeing. The rest is up to you!

**Markinch Parish Church Youth Club has been shortlisted for funding from 'Community Gains' and if successful hopes to use this money to expand the experiences available to the youngsters**

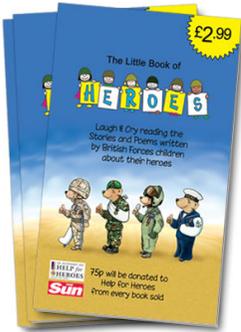
**YOUR** participation is a key part of making this initiative a success for Markinch Youth Club. Come along, support and vote at the Community Gains Voting Day on Saturday 28th August in the Rothies Halls, Glenrothes from 10.30am

More information is available from Tracy Thomson on 01592 775752 and also from The Glenrothes Gazette or Kingdom FM.

## Have your say on policing!

Fife Constabulary is committed to allowing you to directly influence local policing. You can have your say on local priorities by coming to the community engagement meeting in Markinch Church Hall on Tuesday 7th September at 7.30pm For more detail please contact your local community team on 08456005702 or visit [www.fife.police.uk](http://www.fife.police.uk)

# The Little Book of Heroes



Laugh and cry reading stories and poems written by British Forces children about their heroes.

Children from all 43 Services Children's Education (SCE) schools based around the world entered a creative writing competition in January of this year organised by Grosvenor House Publishing Ltd (GHP). The theme was 'My Hero' and the winning entries have now been published in a paperback book called 'The Little Book of Heroes'. The Sun newspaper is

proudly supporting The Little Book of Heroes and will be featuring some of the stories and poems within their paper. Buy this book and you will be donating 75p to Help for Heroes. Available from WH Smith and Morrisons or from [www.littlebookofheroes.co.uk](http://www.littlebookofheroes.co.uk)

## Foreword by Simon Weston OBE

Hardly a day goes by without the newspapers and TV news reporting of another tragic loss of life in Afghanistan. I think it is impossible for anybody who is not directly involved in this war against terrorism to fully comprehend the human cost to the soldiers and to their families. It could be argued that the cost is greater for the families as they are the ones left behind at home.

In this Little Book of Heroes we can read what the children of our brave soldiers think about heroism and who they have as their own heroes. Some of the 'authors' are as young as six years old and some are in their teens; some of the stories and poems will make you laugh and some of them will make you cry. One thing is certain, all of the stories and poems will bring home to us the poignancy of having a parent 'taken away' to go and do their duty. Thank you for buying this book and thereby contributing to Help for Heroes. We would also like to thank the heroes themselves, their spouses and their children, thank you.

## How well do you know Markinch?

You can purchase quiz sheets about Markinch following the Sunday Service or Thursday Coffee's. Quiz sheets cost £1 and the winning entry will win a model of Markinch Parish Church. All money raised will be used towards the upgrade of the church property.



# Markinch : Its Church and Parish

**A NEW PAPERBACK BOOK**

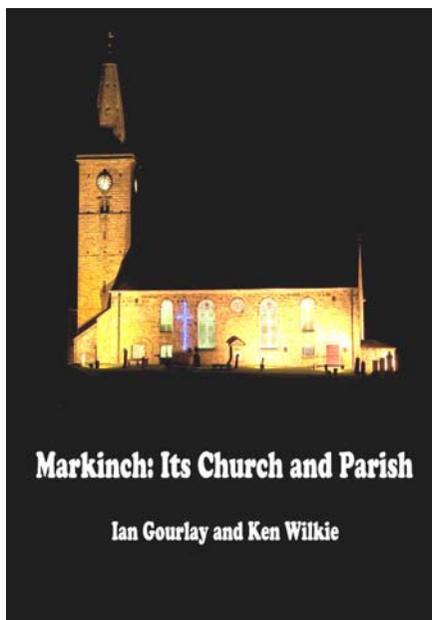
**BY IAN GOURLAY & KEN WILKIE**

Anticipated launch date - 1st October 2010

A companion to the volume

*The Church in Markinch* which was published in 2001

Contributors to this edition include: Dr Jean and Robert Balfour,  
Shane Fenton, Bruce Manson and Stuart Morris



## **The book includes**

- ◆ Foreword by Rev Alex Forsyth
- ◆ A history of the parish incorporating Tullis Russell, John Haig, Markinch & District Co-operative Society, the beginnings of Glenrothes and clubs and societies operating in the town today.
- ◆ A detailed look at the architecture of the church and the tower (by Bruce Manson)

- ◆ Church history from the sixth century to date
- ◆ Listing of the ministers since the Reformation and local people of interest, including the names on the gravestones in the churchyard; the Balfours of Balbirnie (Jean and Robert Balfour); the Beatons of Balfour; the Sibbalds and Leslies of Balgonie ( Stuart Morris) and the Ballingalls of Sweetbank
- ◆ A section on miscellaneous topics of interest including a listing of church officers & session clerks and a personal story on the Ibrox disaster (Shane Fenton)
- ◆ 200 pages of content
- ◆ Includes 48 monochrome photographs
- ◆ 8 additional pages of colour photographs and prints
- ◆ A comprehensive index

Copies can be obtained at the church (a discount is available to church members); from Mary McArthur, gents' hairdresser, 2 Croft Road, Markinch and via the internet at Amazon.co.uk.

**Price £12.50**

Church members can purchase the book at a 20% discount - purchase price £10

**ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE BOOK WILL BE USED TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BUILDINGS OF MARKINCH PARISH CHURCH**



All the latest local and world church news, copies of the Sunday bulletins and weekly intimations are all available on YOUR website

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