



News from the Pews

THE NEWSLETTER OF MARKINCH PARISH CHURCH

VOL. 88 NOV 2010



MARKINCH PARISH CHURCH



Minister:

Rev. Alex R Forsyth TD BA MTh

A warm welcome is extended to all visitors and newcomers to the community to share in the worship, work and witness of the congregation.



Church Service

Sunday 11am

Holy Communion

Sunday 21st November 2010 11am

www.markinchchurch.org.uk



An Ideal Christmas Present

Models of our Church are now on sale priced at £19.99 each.

Please contact Tracy Thomson on 01592 775752 for more information or to place an order.

Models can be viewed in the Church Hall any Thursday morning or Sunday after the service.

The Flower List

The list for next year is now available on the table in the church vestibule. Please add your name to the list if you would like to donate flowers.

The flower arrangers are very grateful to all those who have donated flowers during the past year. Your help and generosity are very much appreciated. If anyone has any queries regarding the church flowers please contact Lottie Wilson on 01592 752500



From the Minister

Charles Schultz's 'Peanuts' cartoon strip has many admirers. Ronald Reagan once wrote Schulz a note, saying he identified with Charlie Brown. The Apollo 10 astronauts named their orbiter and landing vehicle after Charlie Brown and Snoopy. Ministers and teachers are able to read moral and theological lessons into the cartoon strip

At its peak the cartoon strip reached 300 million readers in 75 countries; 2,600 papers and 21 languages every day.

Knowing that I recently I added the biography 'Schultz and Peanuts' by David Michaelis to my collection an old friend sent an article on Charles Schultz. It tells how Schultz invited people to take a quiz.

He asked them:

- ◆ Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
- ◆ Name the last 5 Heisman trophy winners. (This is trophy awarded to the most outstanding college football player.)
- ◆ Name the last 5 winners of the Miss America title.
- ◆ Name the last 5 Academy award winners of best actor and actress.
- ◆ Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

I doubt many Americans, never mind Brits, would do well in this quiz.

The point is the applause dies, the adulation wanes and the awards discolour and we soon forget yesterday's headlines. Schultz then invited the same people to take another quiz.

He asked them:

- ◆ List a few teachers who helped you through school.
- ◆ Name 3 friends who helped you in hard times.
- ◆ Name 5 people who taught you something worthwhile.
- ◆ Think of 5 people who make you feel appreciated.
- ◆ Think of 5 people you enjoy spending time with.
- ◆ Name 5 heroes whose stories have inspired you.

This quiz is much easier. The people who make a real difference in our lives are not the celebrities or the superstars; but the ones who care. Few of us will have our names in lights, but all of us can write our names on people's hearts. We all have the opportunity and invitation, one by one, to make a difference in small ways. It is much more important to be on the second list. See you in church.

Alex

A message from the Session Clerk

After 8½ years as Deputy Session Clerk, I was recently appointed Session Clerk.

I have to thank Ian Watt for his thorough dedication to the role of Session Clerk since May 2002. He guided our Session throughout this period and helped implement a number of progressive changes. Thanks Ian, I hope you enjoy a peaceful time on the 'back benches'.



I look forward to the challenges ahead, in conjunction with our new Deputy Session Clerk, Tracy Thomson.

At the last meeting we intimated the resignation of our Presbytery Elder, Dr. Bob Grant. Bob was thanked for his time in the role. Bob certainly got an insight into the workings of the Church of Scotland! Alison Taylor was appointed as our new Presbytery Elder. I hope Alison enjoys her new role.

As we have managed the 'business' side of Session matters efficiently over the last year, we have decided to change the structure of future meetings.

During 2011, Session meetings will devote more time to theological discussion, an aspect I am personally looking forward to.

Every blessing,

John Wood

Communion Sunday

You are invited to join with us in celebrating

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
on Sunday 21st November 2010 at 11.00 am.

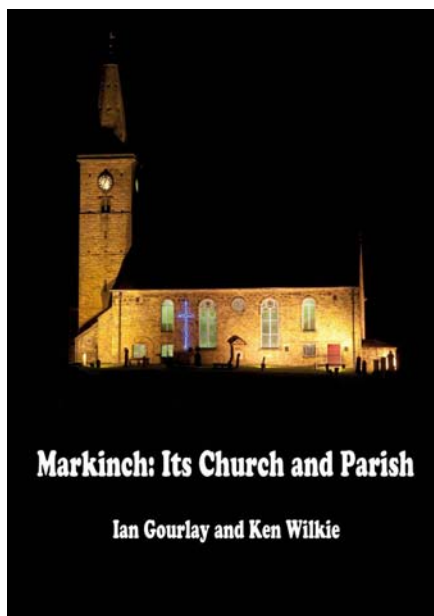


Markinch : Its Church and Parish

**A new book
by Ian Gourlay and Ken Wilkie**

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

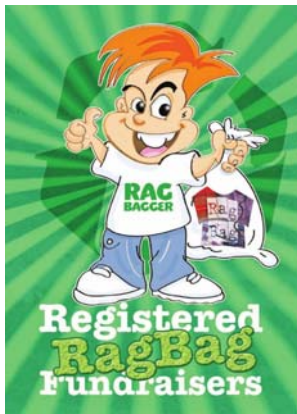


Copies can be obtained from the church and also from Mary McArthur, gents' hairdresser, 2 Croft Road, Markinch or from Ken Wilkie on 01592 760042 or book@markinchchurch.org.uk

The paperback is priced at £12.50 (£10 for church members)
and the hardback is priced at £18.00 (£15 for church members)

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

HELP RAISE MONEY FOR OUR CHURCH BY RECYCLING



During the next few months we will be collecting all types of unwanted textiles including adult's and children's clothes, paired shoes, hats, bags, belts, curtains, towels and bed linen. We take all qualities of textiles, even ripped or with buttons missing!!!

Our church will get money for every kilo of textiles we collect.

Our last collection raised £380.

Start collecting today and bring bagged items to the Church hall, where we will store any items.

Fun & Fellowship at Christmas

Everyone is welcome to an evening of fun and fellowship at this year's Christmas meal.

We have decided to move to a larger venue at Balbirnie Golf Club. Come along and join us on Friday 10th December 2010 at 7pm. Bookings will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis, as numbers are limited to 100.



Please contact Tracy Thomson on 01592 775752 or email her at deputysessionclerk@markinchchurch.org.uk

easyfundraising .org.uk

Easyfundraising.org.uk provide a FREE fundraising service where you can raise funds for Markinch Parish Church when you shop online. Just register and select Markinch Parish Church as your nominated cause!

Choose from over 2000 of the UK's best-known retailers including many popular names such as Amazon, M&S, Argos, John Lewis and HMV, and when you shop using the links on the site up to 15% from every purchase you make is donated to the church.

It doesn't cost a penny extra to shop and raise funds for the church using the site, and as many retailers now give extra discounts when you buy online, you can even **save money!**

Please contact Tracy Thomson or John Wood for more information or help using the site.

Stamp Appeal

Collecting used stamps can raise thousands of pounds every year. We arrange for British first-class, second class and international stamps to be sold to collectors via an agent. All the money raised is used to support the work of a project around the world.

The World Mission Stamp Appeal for this year is for the Girls' Hostel at St Columba's in Sialkot. The Hostel accommodates up to 400 girls while they study at the St Columba Religious Training Centre. Many of the girls who pass their exams at St Columba's have got places in Schools of Nursing, or have gone on to College.

St Columba's is run by our partner church, The Church of Pakistan. Recently food and utility costs at the hostel have increased, putting additional strain on the hostel's budget.

You can help our partner church in Pakistan to continue to provide safe accommodation for girls while they study simply by collecting your used stamps, which are sold to raise money.

Please donate your used stamps to the church. We will ensure the project receives support from Markinch Parish Church.

JUST FOR FUN!

Find 27 biblical names in this wordsearch.....

W	K	R	A	M	O	H	T	A	I	L	O	G
M	Q	R	O	A	I	M	I	U	U	T	L	I
E	L	S	D	D	A	L	C	K	J	Z	E	D
H	E	K	H	A	I	M	E	R	E	J	R	E
S	U	B	E	L	A	C	O	P	E	O	K	O
V	M	T	Q	T	J	B	H	S	U	S	N	N
K	A	Q	T	T	A	A	U	E	J	H	U	F
G	S	H	Q	L	N	S	J	D	L	U	A	S
N	E	I	A	I	S	A	I	A	H	A	O	A
W	T	A	A	B	E	D	N	E	G	O	H	M
O	M	H	E	R	R	O	D	A	V	I	D	S
C	I	H	H	X	A	G	E	K	P	U	T	O
L	D	S	H	H	A	H	T	H	P	E	J	N

More fun: O Sing a New Song to the Lord (Hymn 22 CH3)

Come along to the church at 10am once a month or so to learn a new hymn and then sing it to the congregation so that everyone can learn it. There is no need to be able to read music - just come along if you enjoy singing. Everyone is welcome.

The dates arranged so far are: Sunday 28th November 2010, Sunday 19th December 2010 and Sunday 9th January 2011.

Faith & Light

Faith & Light is an ecumenical international organisation based on Christian traditions. With communities all over the world, we seek to bring together people with a learning difficulty, their friends and their families.

Every 10 years since then there has been a major pilgrimage to Lourdes and in 2001 more than 16,500 people with learning difficulties and their families shared the joy of being there together! Next year we will be celebrating 40 years of Faith& Light, and as many of us as possible will be going to Lourdes with our Province of UK North. We will also be celebrating at home to include those who are unable to travel.

We meet in the belief that:

- ◆ each person is of infinite worth, and is able to give as well as receive
- ◆ people with a learning difficulty have special gifts to share
- ◆ as members of God's family we are called to encourage and support each other

Each local community meets once per month; this is the central activity to Faith & Light. We welcome each person for the gift of who they are, helping them contribute ideas, feelings and plans to each other.

Faith & LIght is about doing 'with' people rather than 'for' them. We celebrate the presence of God in our lives; we pray, learn about Jesus, share food together, sing and dance, share our news, plan trips and outings with other communities. There are 5 in Scotland, from Elgin and Buckie in the north to Perth, Glenrothes and south to Edinburgh. We all get together for our national day once a year. Our community is called the Rainbow Group, and we meet on the last Thursday of the month at St. Paul's Church hall in Glenrothes, from 7.00-9.30pm.

Faith & Light is a registered charity, and we need to fundraise for any activities we would like to do. We are always grateful for any help, from offering lifts, to accompanying and planning events. If you are interested, or know someone who could benefit from our group, please contact Jane Hawryliw on 01592 743571.

Message from the Clerk to the Congregational Board

Summary of recent Board Business

Church cleaner - Michelle Jarvis of Glenrothes was appointed in June

Ministry & Mission allocation – Markinch Church's allocation for 2010 has been reduced by £1000 as a result of the Board's decision to implement the increased Property Insurance Premium recommended by Kirkcaldy Presbytery

Updated circular on the letting of Churches and Church premises – the Hall Committee agreed to meet and review the church's current arrangements to check whether or not they were in line with the circular's recommendations

Finance – although the 2010 Gift Day contributions were slightly down, the overall income to the General Fund was similar to that for the corresponding period of time last year. £3564 has been transferred to the Fabric Fund to help to pay for the new boiler used to heat the hall.

Property – (a) an estimate of £5,900 + VAT was approved to repair the damaged parts of the hall roof

(b) new fire extinguishers have been purchased and installed as required

(c) the possibility of providing the disabled with an alternative means of accessing the church was being investigated

(d) the annual testing of all the electrical appliances was due to be carried out soon

(e) arrangements were in hand to install a handrail at the entrance to the hall

Fund-raising –various fundraising ventures are now in operation i.e. sale of (1) raffle tickets (2) models of the church (3) the book about Markinch and (4) Christmas cards. It is hoped that the Coffee Morning on 9th October and the annual Christmas Meal on 10th December will be well supported.

Hall Committee – the Board was advised the area at the rear of the hall was being maintained by the gardener who was responsible for cutting the grass at the Manse. A suggestion was subsequently made that, although this cost was currently being met via an anonymous donation, the church should take responsibility for any future cost(s). A proposal to pay the gardener £40 per month, as and when applicable during 2011, was unanimously approved.

Hall Committee remit – the Hall Committee, which would now only deal with the hall's administrative matters, was to be restricted and only comprise the Clerk and the Depute Clerk of the Kirk Session, the Clerk of the Congregational Board and the Church Treasurer. The Property Committee, would, as a result, now be responsible for all matters relating to the fabric of the hall.

Community Gains Award - The Youth Club was awarded £700 to help to cover the cost of employing a Youth Worker for 1.5 hours per week during term time. A committee, comprising the Clerk and Depute Clerk of the Kirk Session, the Clerk of the Congregational Board and the Child Protection Co-ordinator was appointed to make the appointment and monitor the resulting arrangements.

Photo-Copier – as the current 5 year lease was coming to an end, Ken Wilkie was authorised to negotiate a further lease in accordance with the needs of the church

Church notice-board – the cost of replacing the notice-board at the entrance to the church was being investigated and a decision will be made soon



Present Aid

Give Together at Markinch Parish Church

Group gifts represent large projects that will make a big difference to the everyday lives of whole communities.

Let's club together to buy a gift that makes a big difference...

A WELL in RURAL KENYA

for less than £500

Digging and constructing a 100ft well will make a huge difference to an entire village in rural Kenya. With no clean water nearby, it falls to the women and girls to walk miles to the nearest river - repeating the journey several times a day.

But with a well in the village, the supply of clean fresh water close by means that women can work and contribute to their family's income.

It also means that girls can go to school regularly and receive a good education that will help them get a job in the future.

We raise money for Christian Aid throughout the year by selling books in the Church Hall. In the run up to Christmas we as a congregation could donate enough money to purchase a well in Kenya through Present Aid and give a gift that makes a big difference.

Donations can be made in the church hall or for more information contact our Christian Aid Convenor, Tracy Thomson on 01592 775752

From the Parish Register

WEDDINGS

21.08.10	Alan Grant & Laura Wallace
28.08.10	Robert Gardiner & Stephanie Johnstone
04.09.10	Steven McCammon & Gayle Leslie
05.09.10	Steven MacDonald & Kay Taylor
24.09.10	Gary Muirhead & Patricia Thomson
26.09.10	Peter Kirkwood & Genevieve Briggs
10.10.10	Colin Maxwell & Michelle Whiteley

BAPTISMS

15.08.10	Callum David Rankine
12.09.10	Sarah Ellen Begley
19.09.10	Euan Alistair Thorburn
03.10.10	Finlay Cameron John Beare
10.10.10	Benjamin Kevin Clements
10.10.10	Lucas Matthew Clements

FUNERALS

17.08.10	George Smart
20.08.10	Angela Foster
29.08.10	Lorna Grant
06.09.10	Sandy Murray
06.09.10	Janet Ford
08.09.10	Helen Inch
11.09.10	Joan McAndrew
10.10.10	Alma Dodds
28.10.10	Robert Wight
30.10.10	Joe Young



Message from The Guild:

At the time of writing, there are only two Guild meetings before our Christmas dinner on 6th December. Time flies indeed! It seems no time at all since Bruce Lindsay and 'Buttons & Bows' got our session off to a happy and tuneful start. Also enjoyed were Greta Reid telling of her experiences on various TV quiz shows, and Tom Mitchell from Puddle Dub Meats. We really enjoyed the tasty bites he brought along.

Looking ahead to 2011, we will hear speakers on subjects such as the Scots language, R.N.L.I, bridal bouquets, 'Mutiny on the Bounty', and at our AGM, Ian Gourlay will talk about the updated book on the history of Markinch Parish. A diverse range of subjects which should have wide appeal. The reality is that Guild membership is falling no matter how attractive we make the syllabus, and in the not too distant future may have an impact on the existence of our Guild.

Guild membership is open to both men and women. We meet on the second and fourth Monday each month from September to March, at 7.15pm in the church hall. We would be delighted to see you at any of our meetings.

Our Office Bearers:

Minister:	Alex R. Forsyth	01592 758264
Session Clerk:	John G. Wood	01592 750327
Deputy Clerk & Youth Club:	Tracy Thomson	01592 775752
Clerk to Board:	Doug Jolly	01592 757039
Treasurer & WFO Convenor:	Nancy Munro	01592 743822
Roll-keeper:	Ian Sankey	01592 749633
Safeguarding Convenor:	Nancy Butler	01592 757428
Sunday School Convenor:	Helen Paterson	01592 771690
Guild Convenor:	Nan McRoberts	01592 753916
Church Officer:	Gavin Brown	01592 756976
Prayer Secretary:	Dr. Morven Duncan	01337 831888

30 Second Sermon

Quote...."Don't let 'well done' on your gravestone mean you were cremated." Matthew chapter 25 verse 21 reads: "His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."

When Mozart was five years old, he wrote a concerto for the harpsichord. Before he was ten, he had published several violin sonatas and was playing music from memory. He composed his first opera shortly after his twelfth birthday and became the pride of Salzburg. He died aged 35, having written 48 symphonies and more than a dozen operas and wrote over 600 compositions in all. Mozart lived most of his life in poverty and died in obscurity. A few friends went to his funeral and no shrine marks his resting place.

What was Mozart's legacy? Not the life he lived, but the music he gave. As with all of us, what we give to the world of our talents and creativity is what lasts.

Why not give some of your time and talent to the Church now? Our organisations such as Kirk Session, Congregational Board; Sunday School; Youth Club, Choir etc would welcome your input. When you stand before the Lord on Judgement Day, will you hear the words "Well done, good and faithful servant"?

Messages from the Treasurer

Standing Orders

You can pay your Church Offerings by Standing Order direct from your Bank Account. This means you don't have to bring your Offering to Church on a Sunday.



Also if you cannot attend Church on a Sunday for any reason your Offering would still go to the Church.

A Standing Order form can be had from Nancy Munro. If you don't like the idea of passing the bag along the pew without putting anything in it you can pick up an Offering Card from the Vestibule to put in the bag.

Coffee Mornings

The Thursday Coffee Mornings raised a total of £4193.45 up to the end of October.

The Saturday Coffee Morning in June raised £222.00

The Saturday Coffee Morning in October raised the sum of £776.00



Our sincere thanks go to all who regularly support the church coffee mornings. Join us on Thursdays at 10am for a coffee and a chat in the church hall.

Life & Work Magazine

Life and Work is the magazine of the Church of Scotland. In its 128-year history it has established itself as the pre-eminent voice of the Church of Scotland. Though firmly rooted in the affairs of the Kirk, it also aims to cover a broad range of subjects of interest to church-goers, across the spectrum from international affairs and British political and social issues to science, ethics and the arts.



One of the magazine's most important elements is reader feedback. Our letters pages are among the liveliest in the magazine business, and are very revealing about general attitudes both within and beyond the Church. We actively encourage letters, but do ask that they are kept succinct (and not without humour), so we can publish as many as possible.

For more information see:

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/lifework/index.htm>

Visit the Church's Life & Work facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/pages/Life-and-Work/246772402922

Interested? Talk to Tracy Thomson any Sunday, or call her on 01592 775752.



A Christmas Concert
in aid of
HELP for HEROES

Sunday 5th of December 2010
at 7.00pm

in
Markinch Parish Church

Featuring the East Fife Ladies Choir,
Carol Singing & Lucky Draw

Tickets £5 (School Children free)
from Jean Forsyth 01592 758264

