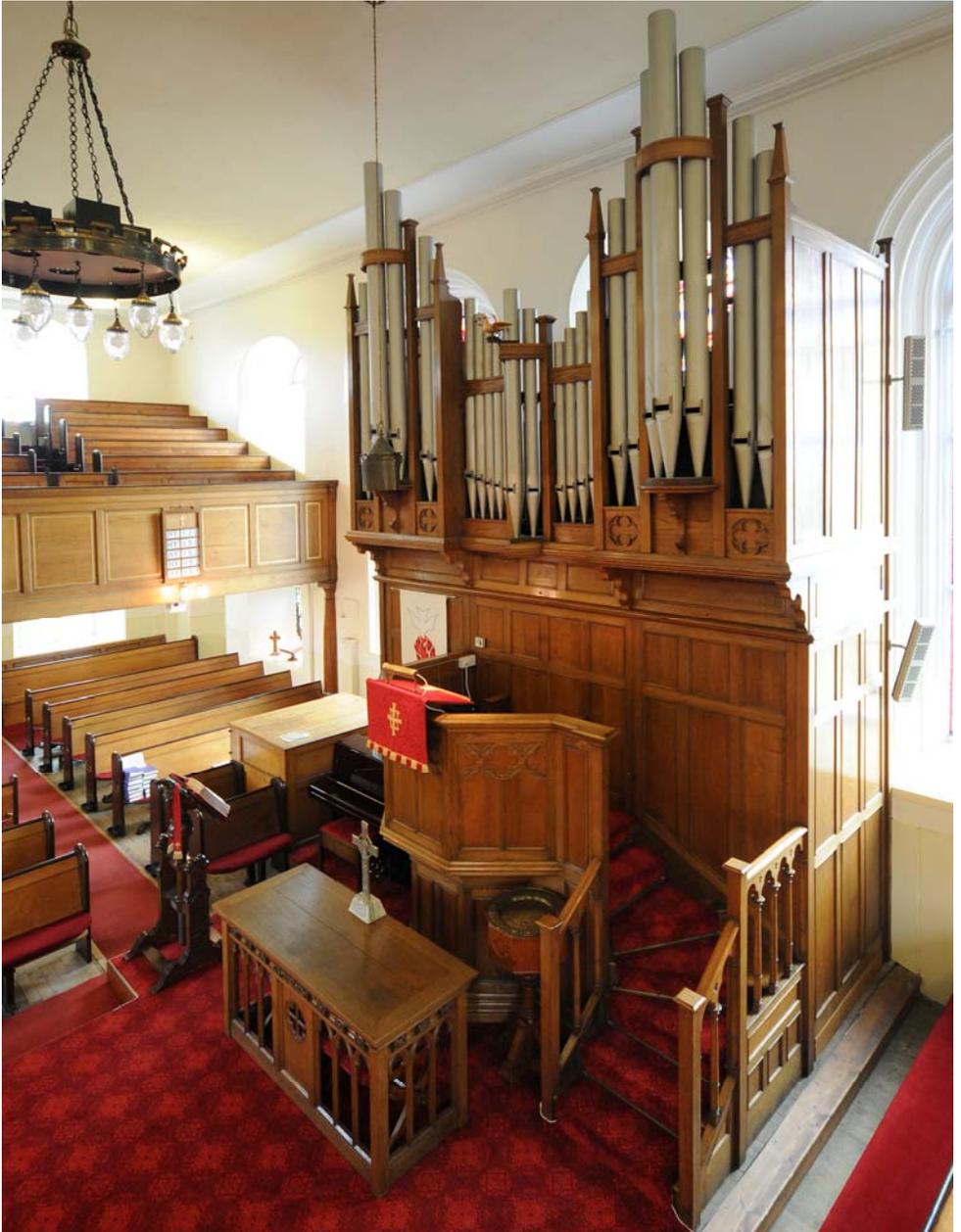


# News from the Pews

The Newsletter of Markinch Parish Church

Vol 89 Feb 2011



# 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

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

## Communion Sunday

The Minister and Kirk Session invite you to share in the celebration of

**Holy Communion**

on Sunday 27th February 2011 at 11.00 am.

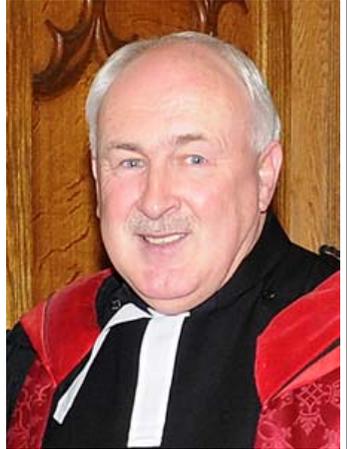


## From the Minister

This year's 'Boat Show' in January was advertised as, "Your World On Water." According to one of the boating magazines the year's most popular names for boats include: Aquaholic, Happy Ours, Miss Behavin, Stella Maris, Reel Time, Serendipity, Serenity, Silver Spray, Sea Spirit and Time Out.

One enthusiastic boat owner named his new boat "Refresher" and another has named his boat, "Disconnected."

I wonder if the new owner knows that to many people, a "Refresher" is a sherbet sweet made by Barratts!



What do you find most refreshing? A cool drink on a hot day? Forty winks in your favourite chair? Listening to Classic FM's 'Most Wanted'? Watching TV? Enjoying the solitude and the peace and quiet of the hills? Maybe you need to be disconnected before you are refreshed!

Rest and refreshment - we all need it. Look around. It is clear that many people rarely go anywhere without a mobile phone, iPod, laptop, iPad or MP3 player. We have become accessible, wired and connected twenty-four hours a day.

Some psychologists see this craving to stay connected as an addiction. Yet like the boat owners a growing number of people are deliberately limiting their use of technology. Taking time out and being "disconnected" and then "refreshed" is their way of preserving times of peace and quiet, while limiting the flow of information into their lives.

Many Christians find that a daily quiet time of Bible reading and prayer is essential to their journey of faith. This "quiet time" is a disconnection from external distractions in order to connect with God and be renewed by His Spirit.

Mark tells us (Mark 6.31) ... Jesus said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile."

"Refresher" and "Disconnected," maybe the boat owners are on to something!

See you in church

*Alex*

## From the Parish Register

### BAPTISMS

05.12.2010      Jonah Joseph Cassells  
05.12.2010      Lily Mae Watson

### FUNERALS

30.10.10      Joe Young  
07.11.10      Mary Shaw  
09.11.10      Margaret Duncan  
26.11.10      David High  
28.11.10      Annie Somerville  
30.11.10      Margaret Burt  
04.12.10      Elizabeth Drummond  
09.12.10      Jim Innes  
13.12.10      Agnes Black  
17.12.10      Grace Dewar  
21.12.10      Thomas Cunningham  
22.12.10      Mary Currie  
27.12.10      Ena Noble  
31.12.10      Tom Steedman  
02.01.2011      Geoff Lester  
10.01.2011      Bathia Wishart  
14.01.2011      Robert Lamont  
20.01.2011      James Brown  
29.01.2011      Ian Maclachlan  
30.01.2011      John Ritchie



# Report from the Clerk of the Congregational Board

## Summary of the main business conducted at a meeting of the Congregational Board on the 15th November 2010

**Photocopier** – the Board approved a quarterly rental of £132.32 payable over the next 5 years for the use of a Ricoh copier having the additional facility of colour printing. The charges per copy would be 0.49 pence for black & white and 4.29 pence for full colour, plus VAT. The previously used Canon copier had now been uplifted and the final invoice for its use was due to be received and paid.

**Community Gains Award Update** – further to receiving the award concerned, arrangements were now in hand to advertise the post so that an appropriate appointment could be made at the beginning of next year.

**External Church Notice Board** – a new Notice Board, reflecting the recent change in Session Clerk, had been installed by Ian Watt and Bert Ward who were thanked for the work which was involved.

**Finance Report** - the income and expenditure incurred since the previous meeting of the Board were both in line with expectations. Although a claim for a tax rebate covering the previous 21 months had already been submitted to the Inland Revenue, no response to the application had yet been received. The meeting agreed to a proposal that the income from all fund raising events should now be placed in the Friends Account to avoid these funds being taken into account in assessing our future Ministries and Mission allocations.

Cost of wedding fees – it was agreed to defer discussion on this matter until the next meeting, subject to the current fees being changed and confirmed.

Funding of the Malawi Project – due to the absence of the Moderator, this matter was deferred until the next meeting of the Board.

**Property Report** – the Convener provided the following update on the recent property developments

- (1) the proposed hand rail outside the hall had now been installed
- (2) the ceiling which had collapsed in the Bell Tower had been made safe
- (3) work had still to be undertaken in clearing the lights in the Tower
- (3) the proposal to install external lights had been deferred until a later date
- (4) the quotation for repairing the hall roof had been accepted and a date for completing the work involved had still to be announced.

Further to a comment regarding the heating within the Church, members of the Property Committee offered to discuss the matter with the Church Officer

**Hall Windows** – the Convener confirmed that permission to change the windows did not require planning consent but only approval by Kirkcaldy Presbytery and then the General Trustees. He suggested several photographs of the current arrangements should be taken and these, along with our proposals, could be presented and discussed at a meeting with a representative from the planner's office. Following this, the Congregational Board would meet to approve the work and cost involved.

*/continued over*

**Fund Raising / Social Events** – Tracy Thomson outlined the main events which were due to take place up until the end of the year. The Board agreed to her proposal that the income provided from the sale of tree tags should be allocated towards the cost of installing a Christian Aid well.

**Dates of Board meetings and the A.G.M. in 2011** – these would all be determined at the meeting of the Congregational Board in January

**Newsletter** – note was made that the cost of printing the November issue, which had several colour pages, had been in the region of £104. John Wood suggested that this cost could, in future, possibly be offset by including A5 local business advertisements and he proposed the following charges - £20 for black & white and £25 for colour. No objections were raised to his suggestion and the matter was referred to Ken Wilkie for his consideration.

*Doug Jolly,  
Clerk to the Congregational Board*

## A message from our Session Clerk

Having now settled into my new role, I have brought about a few changes, which I feel will benefit our elders: The elders on duty during our communion services will now get a break twice a year, due to a re-organisation of duties. Separate rotas have been issued to both teams to ensure duties are clear. Previously most elders had duties at all services throughout the year. I hope they appreciate the rest....bottles of malt can be sent to me as a small gesture! I jest, of course.

I've also planned most of the session meetings for the year to allow our elders to get something out of the meetings:

The March meeting will discuss and respond to questions set by the Church of Scotland Special Commission on the Purposes of Economic Activity.

The June meeting will be attended by Rev. Richard Baxter of Kennoway Parish Church, who will conduct a presentation on the Malawi project we presently support.

The August meeting is likely to include a theological discussion, yet to be planned with Alex.

The November meeting will be attended by representatives from Kirkcaldy Presbytery who will conduct a workshop on 'Visiting the Bereaved'.

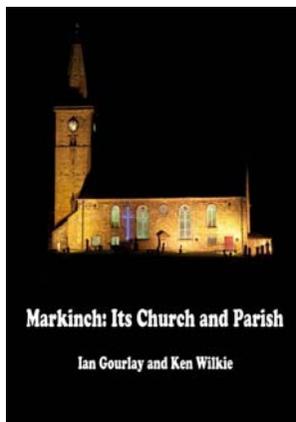
I am working closely with our new Deputy Session Clerk, Tracy Thomson, who keeps me on the straight and narrow! We both look forward to a enjoyable year ahead.

God bless.  
*John Wood*

# **Markinch : Its Church and Parish**

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

Contributors 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](mailto:book@markinchchurch.org.uk)

The paperback is priced at £12.50 (£10 for church members)

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

Our new book has proved to be hugely popular and because we completely underestimated the demand for it, we have already had to re-order additional copies. In less than four months we sold over 300 copies of the book, recovered all the printing costs and have been able to raise the sum of £1230.00 for Markinch Parish Church Funds. This is more money than we raised in 9 years of selling the original book!

We would like to thank everyone who has bought a copy of our book and we hope you have all enjoyed reading it and discovering a bit more about this parish. A special thank you to Mary McArthur who has sold nearly 50 copies of the book from her shop on our behalf.

*Ian Gourlay and Ken Wilkie*

## The Guild

Due to the heavy snowfall on 6th December the Guild Christmas Dinner had to be cancelled. Following the Christmas and New Year break, the first meeting of 2011 also had to be cancelled this time treacherous ice underfoot was the problem!

Thankfully the weather was kinder on 24th January and we had a very interesting talk and DVD presentation by Rodger Grundy from the R.N.L.I. at Anstruther.

With two meetings plus our rescheduled Christmas dinner taking place in February and two more in March this Guild session is almost over.

We close on March 28th when entertainment is being provided by G.A.M.A. members. Tickets will be available soon and we would appreciate your support

*Nan McRoberts*



## From our Presbytery Elder

I attended my first meeting of the Presbytery with some trepidation as I had sat through many a Session Meeting hearing reports from Presbytery which seemed less than interesting!

I was pleasantly surprised as the meeting consisted two parts – the first part was a Communion Service which included some wonderful hymn singing followed by various business matters with a break for tea, coffee and cake (very welcome!)

The meeting continued after our break with a Conference Session organised by the Church and Society Committee on Drug and Alcohol Issues. This was introduced by guest speakers Mr David Bradwell from the Church & Society Council and Mr John Kennedy from Drug & Alcohol Project Limited. Comprehensive, professional and thought provoking addresses were delivered by both speakers who outlined their considerable work with organisations, families and individuals and described the information, advice and counselling support services available to assist those affected adversely by drug and alcohol use. There followed a question and answer session where a wide ranging series of questions and comments were made.

The whole evening was very informative and interesting. I had not realised how many people were involved in our local Presbytery who give so freely of their time and talents to keep all things related to our local Kirks and Parishes running smoothly.

*Alison Taylor*  
*Presbytery Elder*

## Markinch Parish Church Youth Club

The Youth Club is going from strength to strength, with about 30 youngsters coming along every Thursday evening between 6.30pm and 8pm.

The Club is open during school term time to any young person who is in primary five or above. The activities available include crafts, Lego, games, music, cards, dominoes, chess, table tennis, Wii games and a snack bar.

The Youth Club has recently joined **Youth 1st** which is the largest, non-uniformed organisation working with and for the young people of Fife. Youth 1st offer an interesting and varied programme of opportunities for young people and adults including training and seminars on various issues, sports and fun days for juniors.

### **Youth 1st Mission Statement**

Youth 1st exists to support and develop high quality work and educational opportunities for young people. Working with our network of clubs, projects and young people we seek to provide enjoyable activities that help young people to develop the skills and attitudes they need to become fulfilled and effective citizens. We strive to involve young people directly in all our work and encourage others to do the same.

At present the youth club is run by a small group of volunteers but due to the funding we recently received from Community Gains we are in the process of employing a paid youth worker.

For more information contact Tracy Thomson on 01592 775752

## Markinch Parish Church 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 |

## **GIFT DAY 2011**

This year the Church's Gift Day will be on Sunday 27th 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, along with the installation of a new boiler to heat the hall have all been completed, the Congregational Board has now identified the windows in the hall in need of repair/ replacement. A planning application is in the process of being submitted to Fife Council asking permission for this to be undertaken and the work involved is likely to be fairly expensive. For this to be achieved, the congregation's assistance will be needed to help to fund this particular project. 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 cost 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 our Treasurer, Nancy Munro, as you will require the church's special code to insert on your return. Please also contact Nancy for any other questions you may have on Gift Aid.

If, for any reason, you are unable to hand in your donation at the Church on a Sunday, it can always be sent to our treasurer, Nancy Munro, 4 Laurieston Park, Balfarg, Glenrothes, KY7 6YJ (any cheques should be made out to Markinch Parish Church)

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

## **Church of Scotland Website**

The Church of Scotland have recently made major changes to their website. It now has a cleaner, modern look and is easy to navigate. Visit the new site online at [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

## Wanted - Easter Chicks

Tracy Thomson would appreciate it if you could help out by knitting a few chicks for her, which she will fill then with creme eggs and sell prior to Easter to raise fund of Markinch Parish Church.

You will need:- Yellow Double Knitting Wool and Size 10 Needles 3.25 mm

1. Cast on 24 Stitches and knit 2 Rows. Increase 1 stitch at the beginning of every row until 36 stitches are on the needle.
2. Knit further two rows & Cast off 11 stitches at the beginning of the next two rows, making 14 stitches.
3. Knit 12 rows.
4. Knit 2 together across the row. Cut off wool about 12 inches long. Using a Darning needle draw through 7 Stitches. With the remainder of the wool sew the chick. Leave a space at the bottom of the chick to insert the cream egg.
5. Decorate the chick with two eyes and a beak.



## The Church Flower List

The flower list is now available on the table in the church vestibule. Please add your name to the list if you would like to donate flowers in memory of a loved one. A short dedication can also be included in the Sunday Bulletin that week, if you wish.

After the service, the flowers are distributed to the elderly or sick but you can nominate someone to receive your flowers.

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





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**web site: [www.simplyscrumptious.org.uk](http://www.simplyscrumptious.org.uk)**

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Email: [Info@butterfliesandroses-florist.co.uk](mailto:Info@butterfliesandroses-florist.co.uk)

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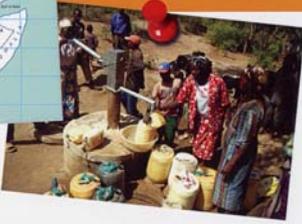


**1 Cloanden Place  
Kirkcaldy**

**01592 640644**

**6 Church Street  
Glenrothes**

**01592 751997**



Through individual donations and the money raised from our 'Trees of Memories' at Christmas time, the members of Markinch Parish Church raised £500.00 for Christian Aid.

This enabled them to construct a 100-ft deep well to provide a village in rural Kenya with clean, fresh water, which will make a huge difference to so many lives.

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**PRESENT AID**  
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OUR CERTIFICATE  
OF THANKS

**Markinch Parish Church**

Thank you for buying a well and helping Christian Aid's work to change the lives of some of the poorest people in the world

**POVERTY**



Women take water from the well at the women's market gardening project run by our partner Réseau MARP, near Gouny, in Burkine Faso

[www.presentaid.org](http://www.presentaid.org)

## **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 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 easyfundraising.org.uk site.

We also have an associates account with Amazon, the online retailer and you can ensure that the church receives commission on any purchase you make by clicking on the link on the front page of the church website before you make your purchase. In the last year our church received over £200 in commission, at no extra cost to the buyer.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2011**

All members of the Congregation are encouraged to attend this year's A.G.M. which will be held in the hall at 7.15p.m. on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

The agenda for the meeting will follow the usual format and include the election and re-election of members to the Congregational Board along with a Statistical Report and the Statement of Accounts for the year ending December 2010.

Copies of the Statement of Accounts will be posted on the Congregational Board's section of the church's web-site ([www.markinchchurch.org.uk](http://www.markinchchurch.org.uk)) after they have been presented to members of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board at a meeting on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Members of the congregation who wish a copy and are not on line can obtain a copy on request to Nancy Munro.

Any member wishing to make themselves available for election to the Board should advise Doug Jolly, Clerk to the Board in advance of the 21<sup>st</sup> March so that he can provide details of what membership entails.

## What is 'Safeguarding'?

The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Office in Edinburgh was originally set up to ensure that all of its congregations created safe and nurturing environments for children and young people. In 1997, it produced a 'Code of Good Practice' stating that it is "the responsibility of each individual within the fellowship of the Church to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children and young people." Now, legislation requires 'vulnerable adults' to be protected in the same way as children and young people (a vulnerable adult being anyone aged 16 or over who requires regular support or care from others).

Markinch Church has a Safeguarding Panel which consists of John Wood (Session Clerk, Tracy Thomson (Deputy Session Clerk), Helen Paterson (Sunday School Leader) and, myself, Nancy Butler (Safeguarding Coordinator).

It is my job as Coordinator to see that Church Policy and current legislation are adhered to. For example, this means that I must ensure that paid workers and volunteers who regularly work with protected groups are carefully selected and supported by the church. Scottish legislation also requires all such workers to be Disclosure Checked by the Criminal Records Bureau (Scotland). I meet with new volunteers and workers, check their identity and send Disclosure forms to CRBS. I am also expected to keep a register of all volunteers and to prepare it for the annual Presbytery check. The Safeguarding Panel exists to support – in confidence - should any abuse allegation be made, or if a Disclosure reveals unexpected police convictions.

From 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2011, the Scottish Government will implement the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007, introducing the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG). PVG (not to be mixed up with England's 'Vetting and Barring' scheme which has recently been in the news) replaces the existing Disclosure Checks, hopefully cutting down on the need for individuals to be Disclosure Checked several times over if they supervise different protected groups. I will now be carrying out update checks for anyone who already holds a Disclosure under the new scheme as well as full Disclosure Checks. Those workers Disclosure Checked under the old scheme are expected to join PVG, but this will not start until February 2012.

Please don't think, though, that safeguarding is only about 'abuse' in the worst sense: safeguarding is simply ensuring that risk is kept to a minimum and that everyone is protected from any kind of harm. For example, the Health & Safety section of the Congregational Board further ensures that all visitors to the church are kept safe and secure.

And you, as a member of the congregation can also play a role in this: your opinions and advice on safety issues are to be welcomed. Whether you are concerned about a trip hazard, worry about a person struggling to access a facility or consider someone's welfare to be at any kind of risk, then please feel free to report it to myself; to anyone from the Safeguarding Panel; or, in their absence, to any church official.

Keep safe, *Nancy Butler, Safeguarding Coordinator.*

# 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 until they are despatched.

## **Church Website - [www.markinchchurch.org.uk](http://www.markinchchurch.org.uk)**

The church website had a major upgrade just less than a year ago and we are getting good feedback on the design and content of the site from the visitors. In the last year we have had over 60,000 unique visits to our website. The Sunday Bulletin, which includes the weekly intimation sheet is available for download from the website every week so even if you are unable to attend church you can still be kept informed of what is happening in your church.

## **Have your say on local 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 Parish Church Hall on Tuesday 1st March at 7.30pm. For more details please contact your local community team on 08456005702 or visit [www.fife.police.uk](http://www.fife.police.uk)



# IN SUPPORT OF **HELP** *for* **HEROES**

**At Markinch Parish Church, we actively support Help For Heroes. The offerings collected in church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were added to the existing funds and we were able to donate the sum of £500.00 An extract from the letter of thanks we received is printed below.**

*Dear Alex Forsyth,  
Donation on behalf of Markinch Parish Church.*

*Thank you so much for your donation of £500.00 to Help for Heroes. We appreciate every penny that comes in and we will ensure that it is put to use providing support for the men and women who are injured in the service of our country. We have already been able to fund the Headley Court Rehabilitation Complex, assist other Service charities such as Combat Stress and SSAFA in their excellent work and helped fund adaptive sports through the Battle Back programme.*

*The next project for H4H, which your donation will go towards, aims to ensure those wounded in the line of duty get the very best support; for life. H4H is working with the Services, to establish a Recovery Capability that will not just ensure that those who leave get jobs, but that they have access to a comprehensive range of support; from learning new skills to access of psychological financial, employment, prosthetic and social support - a "one stop welfare shop" for our wounded and their families.*

*On behalf of all of us at H4H and all those who we will help, thank you.  
With thanks*

*Bryn Parry OBE  
Emma Parry OBE  
Co Founders Help for Heroes*



## Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down Life's Highway a long time ago.  
One day, I saw a sign that read "Heavens Grocery Store".  
As I got a little closer, the door opened wide,  
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of Angels. They were standing everywhere.  
One handed me a basket and said "My Child shop with care"  
Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store,  
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back next day for more.

First, I got some PATIENCE; LOVE was in the same row,  
Further down, was UNDERSTANDING, you need that everywhere you go.  
I got a box or two of WISDOM, a big bag or two of FAITH.  
I just couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST FOR IT WAS ALL OVER THE PLACE.  
I stopped to get some STRENGTH & COURAGE to help me run this race.  
By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered to get some GRACE.

I didn't FORGET salvation, for salvation is free,  
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.  
Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,  
For I thought I had everything to do my MASTER'S will.

As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and I just had to put that in,  
For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.  
PEACE and JOY were plentiful; they were on the last shelf.  
SONG and PRAISES were hanging near so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel "Now, how much do I owe?"  
He just smiled and said "Just take them everywhere you go".  
Again, I smiled, and said "How much do I really owe?"  
He smiled again and said  
"MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG TIME AGO!"

Written by Ron DeMarco & Friend © Copyright 1990

Thanks to Teresa Henderson for sending this poem to us

# *Markinch Community Council*

what we do...

Our main function is as a statutory consultee on planning matters. Planning applications for our area are copied to us by Fife Council for review and comment. We are also notified of other planning matters, e.g. local area plans, strategic plans and so forth.

We also concern ourselves with other local issues. For instance, we have recently been active in "Fife 2010", we're on the Board of the forthcoming eco-centre at Tullis Russell, we're on the Markinch Primary School management committee and we also co-operate with other nearby community councils etc. over matters of common interest..

We are financed, on a per capita basis, by Fife Council. Unlike parish councils in England, community councils in Scotland do not currently have the power to raise revenue. We cannot pass bye-laws but can comment on and recommend suitable bye-laws to Fife Council.

As part of our "community engagement" brief, we do occasional questionnaires and provide information. We also maintain a web site at [www.markinchcc.org.uk](http://www.markinchcc.org.uk)

We meet monthly (not in July or August). The local Fife Councillors are non-voting members of the Community Council and usually give reports. In addition, we often have reports from the local police, the health service and various Markinch-based groups. Our meetings are public and we welcome relevant contributions.

Our monthly meetings are all open to the public and, as well as discussing local issues, we also use them for guest speakers. For instance, on Wednesday 2nd March we'll have Ian B. Smith from Fife Council Transportation to discuss local traffic matters (7.00pm, Russell Room, 252 Hall, Betson Street, Markinch).

## **Markinch Amateur Operatic Society**

MAOS will be performing '**Mack and Mabel**' in Markinch Town Hall from Monday 21st to Saturday 26th March 2011 at 7.15pm.

The musical story of the tumultuous romantic relationship between the famous Hollywood director Mack Sennett and one of his biggest stars, Mabel Normand told through a series of flashbacks.

**Tickets £9.50 (£7 concessions)**

**Phone booking from Monday 21st February on 01592 754537**

**Tickets also available from Markinch Town Hall from 14th March**



[www.maos.org.uk](http://www.maos.org.uk)

## Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May 2011

We at Markinch Parish Church will be continuing to support Christian Aid through out the year, however during Christian Aid week we are planning special fundraising events. The first of these will be **Count Your Blessings** - an appeal which Christian Aid has organised and you can be part of. Count your Blessings begins on 28th March (Ash Wednesday) and continues until Easter. You can collect your Count Your Blessings sheet from Sunday 20th March at Church or download a copy from [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Lent is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for all the good things in our lives. By using the daily reflections and actions in Count Your Blessings, you can appreciate what you have and turn your thoughts to those for whom life is very different.



**Christian Aid Week  
15th - 21st May 2011**

**The money we raise at the Sunday & Thursday Teas that week will be donated to Christian Aid. There will also be a Body Shop Party in the Church Hall on Friday 20th May 2011 - more details later.**

For the people of Jinotega, Nicaragua, coffee isn't just a caffeine kick – it's a means of transforming the lives of entire communities. By getting involved in Christian Aid Week, you can help to make this transformation possible.

Five years ago, Eladio Simeón Pineda's community was a group of poor farm labourers. Then Christian Aid partner Soppexcca (pronounced so-pecks-ka) offered them credit to establish themselves as coffee farmers and supported them to work together as a cooperative. Eladio and the other members of the La Paz del Tuma cooperative now hope that together they will transform their own community

Even though the coffee farmers of La Paz del Tuma have only been working with Soppexcca for a short time, their lives are already changing for the better. The credit which Soppexcca gave to Eladio and the other farmers has been vital in getting them started. The cooperative has a community fund that will be used to achieve the dreams which Eladio and his fellow farmers once thought were out of their reach.



## Looking for something to do on a Thursday morning ?

Come along to Markinch Parish Church hall and join us for a coffee and a chat between 10.00am and 11.15am.

Tea or Coffee is only £1, Lucky Tickets and home baking are also on sale.

In 2010 the coffee mornings raised the fantastic amount of £4734.85.



## Life & Work Magazine

Life and Work is the magazine of the Church of Scotland. In a history spanning over 130 years it has established itself as the pre-eminent voice of the Church of Scotland.

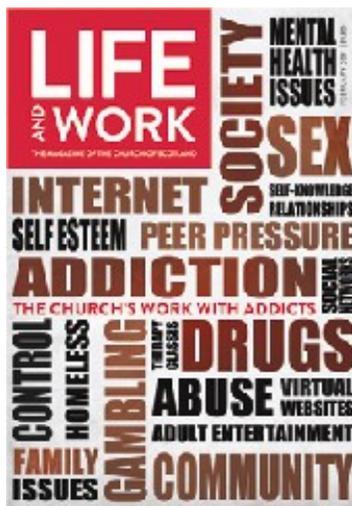
Though firmly rooted in the affairs of the Kirk, it also aims to cover a broad range of subjects of interest to church-goers, across the spectrum from international affairs and British political and social issues to science, ethics and the arts.

Each monthly issue includes a forum for views on current social and moral issues, a monthly meditation and regular articles on the spiritual side of life, reviews of the latest books, videos and Christian resources, and regular features on the Church worldwide

For more information see:-

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/life\\_and\\_work](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/life_and_work)

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



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Aboyne Mortgage Services Ltd is able to search the whole UK mortgage market to find the mortgage that best suit your financial situation - whether you're looking for a simple re-mortgage, credit impaired mortgage or anything in between



Phone us for an informal chat on a no-obligation basis. We'll be happy to discuss your individual requirements, prior to arranging a face-to-face meeting.

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# CO-OPERATIVE FUNERALCARE

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|---|---------------------|
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| 663 Wellesley Road, <b>Methil</b>           | <b>01592 713426</b> |
| 20 The Esplanade, <b>Kirkcaldy</b>          | <b>01592 260636</b> |
| 4 Broomieknowe, Commercial Rd, <b>Leven</b> | <b>01333 439444</b> |
| 23 Dewar Street, <b>Dunfermline</b>         | <b>01383 723586</b> |
| 65 High Street, <b>Inverkeithing</b>        | <b>01383 415962</b> |
| 8 High Street, <b>Cowdenbeath</b>           | <b>01383 510024</b> |
| 9 High Street, <b>Lochgelly</b>             | <b>01592 780308</b> |
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*Archie Dick, Martin Ferguson and Stuart Murdoch*

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