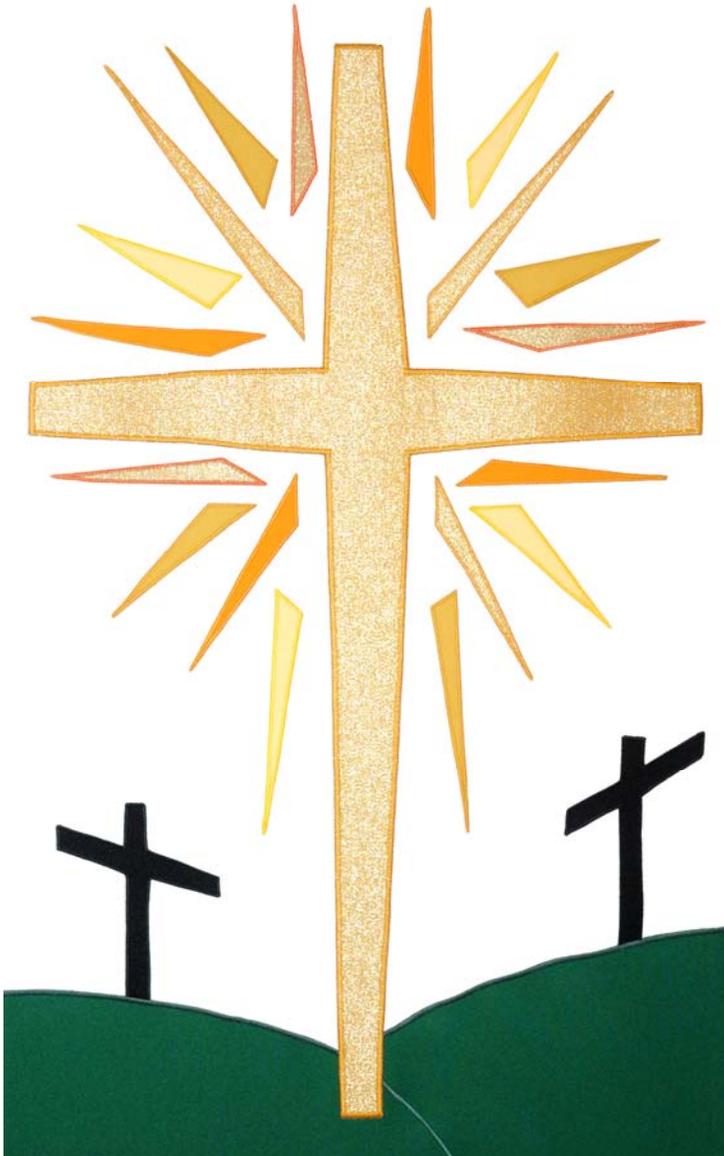


News from the Pews

The Newsletter of Markinch Parish Church

Vol 90 May 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

Communion Sunday

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

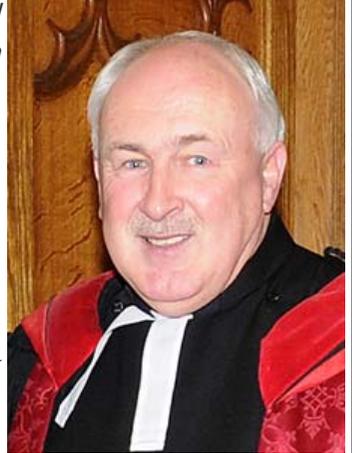
Holy Communion

on Sunday 15th May 2011 at 11.00 am.



From the Minister

In her fascinating book *Garlic and Sapphires: The Secret Life of a Critic in Disguise*, Ruth Reichl reflects on her 6 years as a *New York Times* restaurant critic. Because she was the most influential critic in the country, top restaurants posted her photograph so their employees could recognize her.



Hoping to earn a high rating in the *New York Times*, the staff intended to provide her with their top service and best cuisine.

In response, Reichl developed a clever strategy. Hoping to be treated as a regular patron, she disguised herself. One night she dressed up as an old woman. The restaurant made her wait a long time to be seated and then was unresponsive to her requests and made to feel unwelcome.

Many a church has 'All are Welcome' on its notice board. Recently a church had to be reminded that 'all' really are welcome! The members wanted to bar a local man because he had recently been in prison.

In the early church, James spoke out against favouritism: *"If you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, 'You sit here in a good place,' and say to the poor man, 'You stand there,' ... have you not shown partiality among yourselves?"*



God calls us to show concern for and interest in all people, regardless of their social status. All really are welcome!

See you in church

Alex

From the Parish Register

Baptisms

03.04.11 Lois Emily Bate
03.04.11 Chloe Susannah Bate

Weddings

22.04.11 James Garmory and Louise Stark

Funerals

31.01.11 Nan Moore
20.02.11 Peter Bayne
01.03.11 John Robertson
01.03.11 Alan Miller
04.03.11 Bell Donnachie
04.03.11 Anna McBride
08.03.11 David Rougvie
11.03.11 Jeanette Aitken
12.03.11 Bert Lawson
16.03.11 Muriel Watt
19.03.11 Gwen Wilson
26.03.11 William Carter
27.03.11 Annie Greer
14.04.11 Sheila Pow
14.04.11 Christina Ferguson
09.04.11 Alexandrina Buist
23.04.11 Alexander Duncan



Report from the Clerk of the Congregational Board

Summary of the main business conducted at the Congregational AGM in March

Board Membership - Sandy Brown, Teresa Henderson, Jim Munro and Linda Paterson, who had completed their term of office on the Congregational Board, were all re-elected to serve for a further 3 years. On the other hand, Marjorie Ward's decision to step down from the Board was reluctantly accepted and she was thanked for her contribution during the time she had been a member.

Statistical Return for the year 2010

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Membership at 1/1/2010 | 579 |
| Joined by Profession of Faith | 1 |
| by Certificate | 3 |
| by Resolution of the Kirk Session | <u>2</u> |
| | 585 |
| | |
| Removed by Certificate | 5 |
| by Death | 20 |
| by Resolution of the Kirk Session | <u>4</u> |
| Membership at 31/12/2010 | 556 |

Annual Statement of Accounts

The statement of accounts for the year 2010, which had already been formally approved at a joint meeting of the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board, were universally accepted by those present at the meeting.

Summary of other recent Congregational Board business

Community Gains Award – Following the award of a grant of £700.00, one part-time Youth Worker has been appointed and they are now working with members of the Youth Club on Thursday evenings.

Finance – The 2011 Gift Day Appeal realised approx £3,465 which is almost £300 more than in 2010

A donation of £500 has been made to help with the creation of a well in Kenya under the auspices of Christian Aid and a similar donation has been given to the " Help for Heroes" fund raising campaign.

Ministry & Mission allocation for 2011 – An application asking for a reduction in this year's allocation has been submitted to Kirkcaldy Presbytery. If approved, this will help Markinch Church to make a significant contribution towards the funding of the Youth Worker employed as part of GROW within the Glenrothes and District area as well as meeting the organisational costs involved.

Property – The damage to the organ and Communion Table earlier in the year was due to overheating the church as an attempt to combat the severe cold

/continued over

weather. The problem will now be resolved by installing an appropriate thermostat in the boiler house which will control the heating within the church more satisfactorily. The cost of having the organ repaired amounted to approximately £1,200.

The roof above the kitchen in the hall has been repaired and the company has now been asked to investigate possible damage to the roof of the Session House.

Fund-raising / Social Events A programme of events has been compiled for the remainder of the year and details of these are to be publicised in the Sunday Bulletins and the quarterly Newsletters.

Members of The Congregational Board

Representing the Kirk Session

Doug Jolly (Clerk to the Board)

Tracy Thomson (Depute Session Clerk)

Robert Balfour (Property Convener)

Bill Massie

Ian Watt

John Wood (Session Clerk)

Nancy Munro (Treasurer)

Hugh Connell

Bert Ward

Jean Wilson

Non Kirk Session Members

Helen Bayne

Teresa Henderson

Helen Paterson

Harry Stewart

Sandy Brown

Rae Houston

Linda Paterson

Lottie Wilson

Bill Dodds

Jim Munro

Marianne Sankey

Dates For Your Diary

Fundraising for 2011

Strawberry Teas - Saturday 25th June

Garden Party - Sunday 24th July

Fashion Show - September - Date to be confirmed

Sale of Work - Saturday 29th October

Harvest Lunch - Date to be confirmed

Haggis Drive - Thursday 1st December

Would anyone wishing to help with any of these events please contact Tracy Thomson on 01592 775752 or email deputysessionclerk@markinchchurch.org.uk

The Guild



Our Guild session for 2010/11 ended on 28th March when we were entertained by GAMA and GAMA Youth members. Their excellent singing was enjoyed and appreciated by a satisfyingly large turnout of members and friends. It would be wonderful if we could say this was the norm for every Guild meeting. Our average attendance last session was 17, which was disappointing in view of the fact that we had some very interesting speakers.

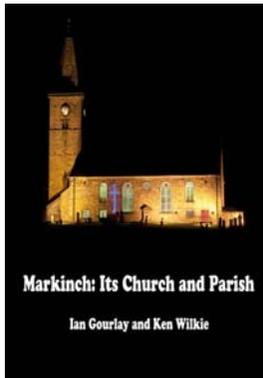
Over the next few weeks we will be busy compiling next year's syllabus which will begin on September 12th. Please join us then and at subsequent meetings on the second and fourth Monday each month from September to March. Everyone is welcome.

Nan McRoberts

Markinch : Its Church and Parish

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

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

Update - more than 340 copies of the book have now been sold and more than £1620.00 profit raised for Markinch Parish Church fabric funds.

Strawberry Teas
Markinch Parish Church Hall
Saturday
25th June 10.00 am - 12 noon



*Donations to the following stalls gratefully received on the day from
9.00am onwards*

*Teas - strawberry scones, strawberry cakes strawberry tarts
Baking Stall - your speciality without strawberries, or scones, cakes,
flans, tarts, trifles, meringues and pancakes all with strawberries.*

Plant stall - plants to the hall on the day from 9.00am onwards

Raffle prizes to Jean Forsyth

Bottle Stall - bottles to Nan McRoberts

Offers of help to Jean Forsyth

Tickets £2 - from Jean Forsyth



Markinch Parish Church Sunday School

Wanted

Children between the ages of 3 and 11
Join us on a Sunday morning for an hour of
Bible stories, fun activities and quizzes.

Meet in the hall at 10.45am.

Spread the word amongst friends and neighbours.

Surafel Alemayehu - Our sponsored child in Ethiopia

Regular updates from Surafel can be found on the board in the hall or on the Church website.

Surafel lives with his father and his mother. Running errands is his household duty. His father is sometimes employed as a subsistence farmer and his mother maintains the home. There are 2 children in the family.

To donate please add your name to the calendar and give the money to any Sunday School teacher or leave it in the envelope in the church hall.



Some of the Sunday School and Youth Club children rolling eggs on Easter Sunday

A quote from the Minister's Easter Sunday sermon.

Several members of the congregation have asked for a copy of this.....

"Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as His body . . .

It was not as the flowers,
each soft Spring recurrent;
it was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled
eyes of the eleven apostles;
it was as His Flesh: ours.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping transcendence;
making of the event a parable,
a sign painted in the
faded credulity of earlier ages:
let us walk through the door."

John Updike: "Seven Stanzas at Easter"

John Updike, world famous author, was the grandson of a Presbyterian minister. His first father-in-law was also a minister. His writing in all genres has displayed a preoccupation with philosophical questions. He was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church and a student of Christian theology.

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 |

A message from our Session Clerk

General Assembly

The 2011 General Assembly will open on Saturday 21st May. You can follow proceedings in a number of ways: Watch it live (or just listen to an audio stream) via a webcast through the Church's main website (link yet to be added), You can follow updates on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/generalassembly> or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/General-Assembly-of-the-Church-of-Scotland/126688374040786 Plus, you can also get updates via SMS by texting **follow generalassembly** to **86444**.

Did you know that the Moderator is not the head of the Church? The Church of Scotland holds that Jesus Christ is 'the King and Head of the Church'. Nor is the Moderator the leader of the Church of Scotland, or its spokesperson. When asked for an opinion on important issues, the Moderator is expected to have in mind the views of the General Assembly or the relevant Church council or committee.

Elders' Long Service

The minister will be presenting Nancy Munro, Jean Wilson and Grant Taylor with long service certificates at our communion service in May. Nancy and Jean have served 30 years as elders, and Grant has served 33 years. Congratulations to you all, and sincere thanks for your dedication to the role of ruling elder.

God bless.
John Wood

Treasurer's Report

At the beginning of the year income from WFO Envelopes and Open Plate was down due to the bad weather but is now on par with last years figures.

It would help with budgeting if more people paid by Standing Order. If you are absent for any reason your offering would still go to the Church. Please contact me if you would like more information on paying by this method.

Up to 17th April Thursday Coffee Mornings have raised £1367.67, Sunday Teas £540.00 and sale of Easter Chicks £192.00

Thanks to everyone who helps with our fundraising as this money is used for repairs to Church Property.

Nancy Munro

Report from our Presbytery Elder

The last Presbytery meeting I attended was very interesting and included a Conference Session with Anne McIntyre, National Director of Parliamentary Prayer Scotland.

What is Parliamentary Prayer Scotland (PPS) ? In the leaflet they handed out they answer this question with these words: We are a growing prayer network of men and women 'standing in the gap on behalf of our beloved Scotland' Ezekiel 22 v 30. We act as a catalyst and seek to inform and stimulate prayer. Any action taken is our own personal, church or organisations' response, not in the name of PPS. We are not a party political or lobbying group.

Why Pray for Parliament ? This question is answered thus:

The Scottish Parliament was reconvened after nearly 300 years, in 1999 and sadly the first debate and decision it took was NOT to pray for themselves or God's blessing upon their work.

In Westminster business starts every day with Christian prayer. However, the format that Holyrood has chosen is a four minute 'Time for Reflection' at 2.30 p.m. on a Wednesday, the start of the weekly Chamber business. This is led by mostly Christian ministers, based on proportional representation but also by all faiths and none.

This is an opportunity for men and women of God to speak into the Parliament. More information on this group can be found at www.ppscotland.org

We then had a Coffee break after which a number of reports from various committees were given. The meeting was closed with prayer.

*Alison Taylor
Presbytery Elder*

War Memorial plaques in Markinch Parish Church

Photographs of the War Memorials and the Roll of Honour for Markinch Parish Church (St Drostan's), Balbirnie UF Church and Brunton UF Church (St Mark's) which are all located in the church sanctuary have recently been added to The Scottish War Memorials Project website at www.warmemscot.s4.bizhat.com/viewforum.php?f=83&mforum=warmemscot

The individual Memorials for members of the Balfour family have also been included at www.warmemscot.s4.bizhat.com/warmemscot-forum-85.html

The Scottish War Graves Project website may also be of interest to anyone working on their family history www.scottishwargraves.phpbbweb.com/

Markinch Parish Church Youth Club

The Youth Club is going from strength to strength and our Thursday evenings are full of fun and excitement. We have around 35 youngsters attending each week from 6.30pm till 8pm. Due to the recent good weather we have been able to use the Church Hall garden either for playing games or simply just sitting and chatting to friends. The activities which are most popular include:-

- Badminton
- Snooker
- Lego
- Crafts
- Air hockey
- Football
- Snack bar
- Games at the end of the session

As stated in the congregational board minutes we have employed a Youth Worker, who has been using his sport skills to help the youngsters with new skills in many active games.

At present we are fundraising to purchase new equipment and the members are doing this by collecting 20 pence's in 'Smartie' tubes. Once we have collected all the money we will be applying for a grant to enable us to purchase larger equipment such as a folding table-tennis table, football goals, packs of equipment such as bats, ball, hoops etc.

The Youth Club has also been involved in a pilot scheme with the community police by extending the opening hours from 8pm - 9pm for the older age-group. The community police will be reviewing the last four weeks and hopefully organise other events for high school youngsters in the future.

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 any Thursday morning between 10.00am and 11.15am

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





Youth Club



CARLTON

bakeries

**Call into see us at
6 Balbirnie Street Markinch KY6 3NZ**

Enjoy our speciality coffee

Home made soup

Toasties

Carvery

Baked potatoes

Haddock and fries

Home made steak pie

Scampi and fries

And much more

Come in for a snack, lunch, or afternoon tea

Telephone 01592 754444





Simply Scrumptious Buffet

Hog Roast

Carvery

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Fraser **07811 749990**
Fiona **07530 749990**

www.simplyscrumptious.org.uk

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NOW OPEN Bankhead Roundabout Glenrothes, Next to BP Garage **NOW OPEN**

Simply Scrumptious Buffet

Experts in creating buffet menus for a variety of occasions whether it be a corporate event, birthday party or any other occasion - we have the "right choice, right quality and right price" we now offer an excellent bbq, carvery and hog roast service so if you need to get on with entertaining your guests, we can take care of making sure the food is hot and ready when you're family and friends want it!!

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web site: **www.simplyscrumptious.org.uk**

Fax: 01592 749990

The Rotary Club of Glenrothes



Enjoy the event and support:

Rotary Projects

Fife Teenage Cancer Trust

Crossroad for Carers (Glenrothes)

**Saturday 14th
May 2011**

Markinch Fete

10am—12 Noon

- *Tombola*
- *Book Stall*
- *Bottle Stall*
- *Cake and Candy*
- *Bric a Brac*
- *Chocolate Tombola*
- *Raffle*
- *Lucky Lollies*
- *Plant Stall*
- *Ice Cream Factory*
- *+ much more!*

Markinch Church Hall

More information from: Tracy Thomson
Tel 01592 775752 or tthomson01592@hotmail.com



Hopefully most of you will now have had an opportunity to meet Gwyneth Duff, the GROW schools worker. She is kept busy going into schools to take classes, assemblies and leading weekly SU groups in Auchmuty High School and Glenrothes High School. As well as that she leads a team of the town's youth leaders in organizing the termly H2O for

secondary pupils. As well as these regular commitments Gwyneth and the GROW committee are involved in other special events:

At the beginning of January, Al Johnson, a professional Football Freestyler based in Stockton-on-Tees visited Glenrothes at the invitation of GROW, to take a full timetable of lessons, assemblies and lunchtime freestyle workshops in Glenrothes HS and Auchmuty HS. Pupils were in awe of Al's obvious skills as a freestyler! One of the many highlights was the assembly at Auchmuty where Al performed to lots of 'ooh's' and 'ahhh's' from first year! Al then shared about how he became a Christian. He was brought up to go to church. But it was only when he suffered a devastating injury that ended his career as a professional player that he was ready to listen to God. Al knew God was asking him to trust his life fully to Him - and so he did. Al went on to say that being a Christian has changed his attitude to everything - including competing, and using the gifts he now believes God has given him.

Strictly Come Praying is a national youth prayer event for those aged P7-S6, held each March. As this event has proved very popular and influential in the lives of many young people in our town the GROW committee planned to hire a coach for Strictly Come Praying in Grangemouth on Sunday 20th March. This year the theme was Dare to Ask, based on the verse in Ephesians 3:20 "His power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine..."

'A Cracking Easter' an event for children in P3-P6 was held on Easter Saturday, 23rd April, organized by the GROW committee. As well as children from the local churches we hoped to attract some children for whom this may be the only opportunity to celebrate the real meaning of Easter.

Local ministers and youth leaders have been meeting to think about coordinating the ministry to young people in our town and area.

As you will appreciate from this there is no shortage of opportunities for Gwyneth and we are so encouraged by all that has been achieved by her and the Trust in the past four years. We are grateful for the generosity of so many people to support the work and know that it is because God has inspired them to share our vision. Please pray for Gwyneth and her work.

Our core funding from the Church of Scotland Parish Development Fund comes to an end next year and so the management committee is currently looking for ways to ensure the continuation of the project. If you feel you could support us in any way please contact Beth McLean at beth@mcleanmail.me.uk Tel 752241 or Chris Hay (treasurer) at chris.hay@blueyonder.co.uk Tel 741245

Easter Chicks

Many thanks to everyone who responded to this appeal and we are glad to say that a number of chicks were found and £192.00 was raised for Church funds by selling these Easter Chicks.



easyfundraising.org.uk

Easyfundraising.org.uk provide a FREE fundraising service where you can raise money 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 the online retailer **amazon.co.uk** 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.

Markinch Community & District Choir

More than 40 people attended the first rehearsal of the choir on Wednesday 20 April. They sang their socks off! From African tribal music to Phil Spectre (you have to be a certain age to appreciate that name), they tackled a wide range of songs. They sang in unison; they sang in four part harmony; they sang for fun!

There was an equally broad range of knowledge; from folks who only ever sing in the shower to some really talented and experienced songsters.

Everyone was made welcome and the buzz in the hall during the refreshments interval was truly inspiring.

The choir had a fabulous start, all we have to do now is build on that success. Come and join in. Sing for Fun on Wednesdays from 7 - 9pm in the Church Hall.

Five Fingers Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty".
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the leaders of our Country, leaders in business and industry, and administrators that they may wise decisions. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all. Which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "the least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinky should remind you to pray for yourself.

By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

How the Church of Scotland is organised

The Church of Scotland's governing system is Presbyterian which means that no one person or group within the Church has more influence or say than any other.

Church of Scotland government is organised on the basis of courts, mainly along lines set between 1560 and 1690. Each of these courts has committees, which may include other members of the Church, and at national level employ full-time staff. At a local parish level, the court is a kirk session. Kirk sessions oversee the local congregation and its parish, and consist of elders presided over by a minister.

At district level, the court is a presbytery. Presbyteries consist of all the ministers in the district and an equal number of elders, along with members of the diaconate (a form of ordained ministry, usually working in a complementary role in a ministry team). There are 46 presbyteries across Scotland, England, Europe and Jerusalem.

At national level, the court is the highest court of the Kirk, the General Assembly. The General Assembly consists of around 400 ministers, 400 elders, and members of the diaconate, all representing the presbyteries.

Glenrothes and District Churches Together

In the early days of Glenrothes two of the ministers in the new town had the vision to set up what was then a Council of Churches. People were coming to this new town from many other areas and the churches worked together in many ways to help people settle into their new environment. When a new precinct was built people were visited and invited to their nearest church whatever the denomination. Services were also held in the school and lots of local amenities were hurried along with the input from the churches.

In 2000 we changed our name to Churches Together. The Churches now include all the Church of Scotland charges in Glenrothes, Leslie and Markinch; the Scottish Episcopal Church; the Roman Catholic Church; Leslie Baptist Church; The United Reformed Church in Coaltown of Balgonie; The King's Covenant Fellowship and the Salvation Army. According to the constitution each church can be represented by the minister, any assistants, and four lay members.

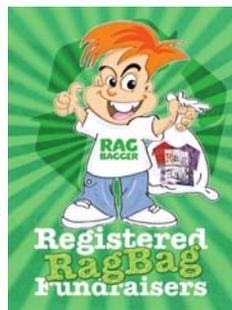
Last year we had a long look at what we were about and a survey was sent out to all the congregations helping us to make informed decisions about the kind of things people would want to support. Top of the list was a Songs of Praise and this was organised for the Sunday of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January. We were accompanied by the Salvation Army Band and we had a good attendance. We hope to develop this. The Fellowship meal is also held during this week. Lent Studies are also a regular event. These are arranged in different churches at different times so that people can attend when most suitable to them. At Christmas there is Carol singing in the Kingdom Centre.

We pray for one another's churches and leaders regularly. We remember one another's celebrations and concerns. We listen and learn from one another. The quality and depth of relationship that grows through this work is itself an expression of unity. We are affiliated to the Action of Churches Together in Scotland and part of their commitment is to "fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service to the world" Two major things from recent years and on-going in this area are the "Gravy Train" providing a weekly lunch for the Big Issue sellers and GROW, the setting up of the funding which enabled us to employ Gwyneth Duff as the Outreach worker in our schools and churches. This is a continuing work.

We can never be complacent about what we do as there is still much to do. "We can increase the unity among Christians by concentrating on the love and faith which unites us, using every opportunity to work with others to see God's Kingdom on earth."

Further information is available on the Churches Together website at:-
www.gkcarratt.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/gct.html

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.

Last date for collection is 22nd May

THE BIG SPRING CLEAN

On Saturday 21st May Tracy Thomson is organising a Big Spring Clean of the Church Hall. This will include washing down walls and pipework, washing doors, sweeping doorways and generally tidying our Church Hall. If you are able to come and help please contact Tracy 01592 775752 and remember to bring your rubber gloves and bucket.



Church Flowers

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.

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





Re-scheduled Concert
in aid of
HELP for HEROES

Tuesday 17th May 2011
at 7.00pm

in
Markinch Parish Church
featuring

The East Fife Ladies Choir

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

Please use your old ticket if you bought one previously.
Tickets now available or you can pay at the door.

Donations of prizes for the 'Help for Heroes' Lucky Tickets would be greatly appreciated to Jean Forsyth please.



Scottish Word Search



Hi ghlands
Cal edonia
Haggi s
Whi sky
Tartan
Thi stle
Sporran

Cei l i dh
Gael i c
Edi nburgh
Hogmanay
Cl an
Sal ti re
Kil t

Loch
Robert Burns
St Andrews
Gol f
Bagpi pes
Nessi e
Bannocks

Markinch Heritage Group

One of Fife's greatest historians, Æ. J. G. Mackay had a theory about Markinch. Writing in 1896 he maintained that "*the scoffing proverbs which the rest of the Kingdom still cast at Markinch, though their form is modern, may be a reflection on its former greatness which departed when the old Celtic chiefs ceased to be kings, the Culdees were supplanted by monks of Roman orders and the seat of justice transferred to Cupar.*"

When the Markinch Heritage Group started to meet about eight years ago this was one of the unsolved puzzles that attracted me. Why should a town inside an ancient barony that was once a centre of lawmaking along with Forfar, Perth, Aberdeen and Inverness suddenly disappear from the pages of history, not to reappear until the Industrial Revolution? Even more remarkably, why should it have at its centre one of the finest and best preserved Norman towers in the country - part of a church that replaced another referred to in a manuscript dating from the time of MacBeth, King of Scots?

The "scoffing proverbs" may have died out (or is it just that I haven't heard them yet), but the town is still treated with indifference in the tourist brochures and, until Simon Taylor's recent book, virtually ignored in the modern historical accounts.

Over the past few years a range of speakers invited to address Markinch Heritage Group meetings has begun to peel back the history, both ancient and modern, from this fascinating town. Members meet in the 252 Memorial Hall in Betson Street, usually on the first Thursday of the month from September onwards. New members are always welcome. A committee of about a dozen meets more regularly to set out future programmes and to take forward various heritage related projects. These range from producing booklets on heritage trails to recording and archiving some of the town's vanishing history. Markinch Heritage Group was the working title of the half dozen enthusiasts who met to found the organisation in 2003 and, despite moves to re-name it a "society" or an "association", the name has stuck.

The Group has carried out three archaeological investigations on Markinch Hill and at an Iron Age site near Newton farm and is currently part of a Partnership seeking Heritage Lottery funding for (amongst other things) the investigation, repair and maintenance of local historic buildings. This may include Markinch Parish Church and our fingers are crossed in what is a very competitive bidding process.

You can get further information on our programme online at www.markinchheritage.org.uk

If you have any interesting historical material that you feel should be recorded please get in touch with me at bruce.manson@btinternet.com Perhaps you might even have a memory of what these "scoffing proverbs" about Markinch actually were, mentioned but not recorded by Mackay, over a hundred years ago!



Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May 2011

Sunday 15th May

Come and join us after Communion for soup, tea/coffee and a chat.

Thursday 19th May

Christian Aid Coffee Morning 10am till 11.30am, baking stall and lucky tickets.

Friday 20th May

Bodyshop Party, bring your family and friends along to this Bodyshop party, Items can be purchased on the night - no need to wait!
A fun night out only £2 a ticket or pay at the door.

Sunday 22nd May

Come and join us for tea/coffee and chat after the Sunday service

ALL money raised from the above events will given to Christian Aid to purchase a gift for their community, similar to the Well we purchase at Christmas time.

For more information please contact Tracy Thomson by email at tthomson01592@hotmail.com or telephone 01592 775752

For more information go to www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved

Daring to dream the impossible

Christian Aid partner Soppexcca (pronounced so-pecks-ka) is an organisation with a vision. It is passionately committed to helping poor Nicaraguan coffee farmers to beat poverty.

Ten years ago, when Soppexcca was established, this seemed impossible. But now Soppexcca is a thriving collective of small cooperatives which helps farmers produce good-quality coffee, market it and put funds back into their own communities. It works with communities to understand their needs and empowers them to make their own visions a reality.

Gustavo Adolfo Talavera, an illiterate coffee farmer, had few prospects until Soppexcca gave him a loan, allowing him to expand his farm and build a small and environmentally sound processing plant.

He had a dream of his children being able to read and write, and be educated. His dream became a reality when Soppexcca helped members of the community get enough resources together, and a group of parents built a school themselves.

Ten years ago, education would have seemed an impossible dream for Gustavo. But Soppexcca is enabling his community to dream dreams – and then to do what seems to be impossible.

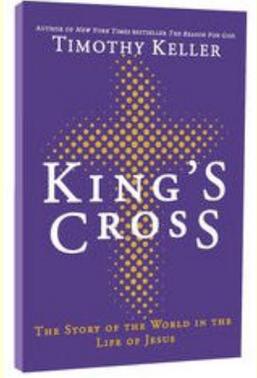
“Fact and Fiction”

Book Reviews by Rev Alex Forsyth

Timothy Keller is the minister other ministers read. At a time when interest in Jesus has never been higher, respected minister and best-selling author Timothy Keller takes an extended look at the life of Christ.

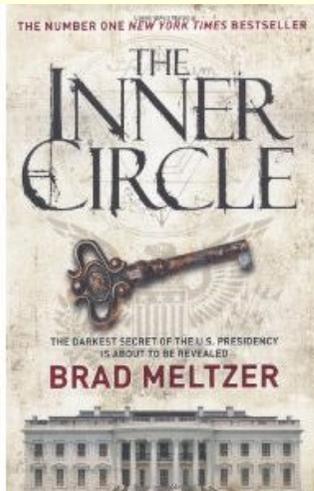
Basing his study on the gospel according to Mark, he explains how Jesus' identity as king and his purpose in dying on the cross have meaning and significance.

Written in Keller's trademark authoritative, inviting style, this book will unlock new insights. Timothy Keller is minister at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York.



Bestselling author Brad Meltzer latest book is a pulse-pounding new novel of lies and deception at the highest levels of the United States government.

“There are stories no one knows. Hidden stories. I love those stories. And since I work in the National Archives, I find those stories for a living.” So says Beecher White, a young archivist who spends his days working with the most important documents of the U.S. government.



When Clementine Kaye, his first childhood crush, shows up at the Archives asking for his help tracking down her long-lost father, Beecher tries to impress her by showing her the secret vault where the President of the United States privately reviews classified documents. It is also where Beecher and Clementine accidentally happen upon a priceless artefact, a 200-year-old dictionary that once belonged to George Washington - hidden inside a desk chair.

Eager to discover why the President is hiding this important national treasure, the two soon find themselves entangled in a web of deception, conspiracy, and murder that will reveal the most well kept secret of the U.S. Presidency.

Both books are available from any good book shop and Amazon.co.uk
Remember to use the link on the church web site.

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