



Markinch Parish Church Sunday Bulletin

Minister: Revd Alex Forsyth TD BA MTh

Our Mission

To Worship God, Share His love and Serve His World



Grace To You And Peace

During the organ prelude please quietly prepare yourself for sharing in the service by offering a prayer and reading the lessons set for today.

To access the loop system switch to setting "T"

We enter to worship
Prelude - music for prayer and meditation



Welcome & Intimations

Call to Worship

HYMN 146 From All That Dwell Below The Skies

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Genesis 32.22-31 p 36
Romans 9.1-5 p1135

HYMN 4 How Excellent In All The Earth

Matthew 14.13-21 p 981

HYMN 485 Dear Lord & Father Of Mankind

Prayers for Help & Healing

HYMN 251 Here I Am, Lord

The Sermon

The Offering

HYMN 167 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

The Blessing & Choral Amen

Postlude - music for prayer and reflection
We depart to serve

Coffee & conversation in the hall





Some facts about the food crisis in east Africa from the Christian Aid website

What's causing it?

The lives of more than 11.5 million people are at risk as a result of food shortages in east Africa. This emergency is caused by a complex combination of factors including: the worst drought in 60 years, poverty and marginalisation, high food prices and conflict. Through our partners we are providing for the safety and immediate needs of those affected now, including in Dadaab refugee camp, home to nearly 400,000 people.

Why is there a food crisis now?

The rains have failed over the past two rainy seasons in parts of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. Although rainfall is unreliable in this region, the present drought is extreme. In some areas it is the worst drought since records began in 1951.

Boreholes have run dry, livestock are dying and harvests have failed; many people are using up all their food reserves. The current drought shows the vulnerability of poor people in the region. It is hard to determine whether the drought is linked to climate change, but changes in weather patterns are leading to failed harvests and hunger.

Pastoralists in Ethiopia rely on access to land for their livestock, they move to reserve pasture nearer rivers during drought conditions. Pastoralists are finding that grazing land has been taken over for commercial farming, in some cases for non-food crops like biofuel.

Land has also been damaged by deforestation and loss of forest cover. This leaves pastoralist communities much more vulnerable to the affects of a drought and many are seeing all their animals die.

A rise in food prices of up to 300% has aggravated the situation, this is linked to the global markets and failed harvests.

The ongoing conflict in southern Somalia and ineffective governance there has left thousands of people vulnerable to the current drought. In addition, the military group Al Shabaab, which controls much of southern Somalia, has forbidden many humanitarian agencies from access to the area.

The situation may change in the current crisis, but provision of food and humanitarian assistance remains very difficult inside Somalia. This has caused thousands of people to leave their homes, land and livelihoods in search of safety, food and water.

Could the present crisis have been avoided?

Christian Aid and our partners have been preparing for the possibility of a disaster. In December 2009 the Early Warning System, put in place after the 1983-85 Ethiopian famine, predicted the possibility of a food crisis.

Our partners in Kenya and Ethiopia have long term projects to help those living in the most arid and remote areas to access clean water and to improve their ability to grow crops and to support their families.

At the end of 2010, the UN appealed for \$500 million from member states to address food insecurity. Yet by the beginning of July 2011, only \$250m had been received. Even now with the UN appealing for \$1.6 billion, there is still more than \$800 million lacking. More pressure is needed to encourage the international community to respond and to provide the assistance needed.

Update



Welcome. We hope you will feel at home and among friends. Would visitors please sign our visitors book. Please join us for coffee and a chat in the hall after the service. If you would like information about the Church or any of the organisations please see a member of the welcome team. The reader today is Ian Watt.

Ministers Vestry Hour 12 noon - 1.00 pm. Please contact the Minister for an appointment - phone 01592-758264 or E-mail alex@arforsyth.com In the event of hospitalisation, serious illness, family anxiety, bereavement or personal difficulty the Minister is readily available to visit. You have to let him know if he can be of help.

Coffee Mornings are held on Thursdays from 10.00am - 11.30am in the church hall. Come and join us for tea or coffee and a chat. You are always welcome.

Elders please note that copies of the Newsletter and Communion invitations are now ready for collection from the Session House.

Communion Sunday You are invited to share in the celebration of Holy Communion on Sunday 14th August 2011 at 11.00 am.

Christian Aid East Africa food crisis appeal A cheque for £600 has been sent off to Christian Aid from our church. Thanks to everyone who donated.

The Flowers in Church today are dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Nessie Paterson. They are gifted by her daughter and family.

Dates For Your Diary

Fashion Show - Friday 16th September at 7.15pm Come along to Picante at Unit H4, Newark Road South, Glenrothes, KY7 4NS and enjoy a fashion show with all profits being used for the refurbishment of the church buildings. Handbags, shoes and accessories will be on sale. Bring your family and friends along, tickets on sale from 14th August from Tracy Thomson.

Garden Party - Sunday 18th September This will be held in the Church Hall garden, or in the Hall if it's bad weather. Tickets will be available shortly from Tracy Thomson. Adults £5 and children £2

Harvest Lunch - Sunday 2nd October Our Harvest Lunch will be held following the Sunday Service that day. Anyone wishing to join us please inform Tracy Thomson by 25th September 2011.

Sale of Work - Saturday 29th October Full details to follow in Sunday Bulletins and on the website.

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