

News from the Pews

The Newsletter of Markinch Parish Church

Vol 91 Aug 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 14th August 2011 at 11.00 am.



From the Minister - The First Word



Frank is an apiarist – a bee keeper. He is also a minister. Speaking at a church conference he made a plea for Christians to learn to do nothing!

According to Frank, "The busy-bee is famous for its hard work and ceaseless toil. A bee hive is - 'a hive of activity.' A single worker bee makes 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime, and a good hive will produce 50 to 60 pounds of honey to survive the winter."

But that's not whole truth. Frank maintains that, "It is a little known fact that even the hard-working, industrious busy-bee will select a spot in the hive, usually on the comb, cease all activity - and do absolutely nothing for a while. The busy-bee takes time out!"

Apiarists know that this time of renewal and refreshment is essential to the bee's well-being. Bees need a little time away from the busyness of working life and the hyper-activity of the hive.

Many of us discover that our levels of stress and anxiety rise because of the never-ending tasks and endless commitments that fill our days and diaries. We worry about whether we can keep up or keep going.

It's then we need to follow the example of the bee and just stop. After all, Jesus did the same thing. When he was busy, he went up onto the mountain to reflect and pray: to renew and refresh his spirit and create a time and a space for God. If Jesus needed time-out, surely we do too. God is always present with us but sometimes we are not present with Him!



See you in church

Alex



Long Service Awards For Three Elders

On Sunday 15th May, three of our Elders were presented with certificates and bibles for each giving over 30 years service to the church as an Elder. The photograph shows Jean Wilson, Grant Taylor and Nancy Munro with Rev Alex Forsyth.



A New Elder At Markinch Parish Church

Mr Bryan Gould was ordained as new church Elder by Rev Alex Forsyth during the morning service on Sunday 17th July. The photograph shows Bryan being congratulated by Rev Forsyth. The Kirk Session was represented by Tracy Thomson who is Deputy Session Clerk and Harry Gould, who is Bryan's brother.

From the Parish Register

Baptisms

01.05.11 Emilia Imogen Bailey
01.05.11 Daisy Rosa Maxwell
21.05.11 Craig Peter Easton
21.05.11 Harry William Easton
12.06.11 Joseph William Myles
12.06.11 Jessica Bridget Myles
03.07.11 Jude Alistair Sankey
17.07.11 Ewan William Hugh Boyd

New Members

21.05.11 Craig Peter Easton
21.05.11 Kathryn Allan

Elder's Ordination

17.07.11 Bryan Charles Gould

Weddings

21.05.11 Alfred Kennedy & Debra MacDonald
04.06.11 Paul Proctor & Lindsey Crawford
04.06.11 Jamie McLuckie & Amanda Mason
09.07.11 Paul Campbell & Susan Swanson

Funerals

24.04.11 William Penman
04.05.11 Donald Imrie
08.05.11 Archie Parker
15.05.11 Una Harley
16.05.11 Beth Cairns
01.06.11 George Boyter
02.06.11 Gordon Oswald
21.06.11 Margaret Gould
21.06.11 Doris Braid
15.07.11 Janet Spittal
17.07.11 James Agnew
23.07.11 Janice Marr
24.07.11 Jemima Garvie
25.07.11 Rachael Dewar



A message from our Session Clerk

Session changes

There have been changes to our Kirk Session. Diane Ritchie resigned recently as she and her family have moved out of the area and they want to develop a relationship with the local church. Our thanks go to Diane, and we hope she enjoyed her time at Markinch. We wish Diane and family all the best for the future.

As we say goodbye to one elder, we welcome a new elder to our Session. Bryan Gould was ordained as a serving elder on 17th July 2011. We hope Bryan enjoys his new role.

Elders Long Service

The minister will be presenting Sandy Grant with a long service certificate at our communion service in August. Sandy has served for more than 30 years as an elder. Congratulations to you Sandy, and sincere thanks for your dedication to the role of ruling elder.

Next meeting

Our next meeting on Monday, 15th August will include exploration of an area of the bible and subsequent theological discussion.

God bless.

John Wood

Christian Aid

From Sunday 14th August there will be jars of marmalade for sale for £1 each in the Church Hall in aid of Christian Aid. When the jar is empty please help Christian Aid by using this jar to save your 'coppers'. Once your jar is filled please return to Tracy Thomson who will add all donations to the good work of Christian Aid.



Stamp Appeal

Collecting used postage stamps can raise thousands of pounds every year. British first class, second class and international stamps can 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 Mount Olivet Boys' Home which provides a place of hope for young boys who have been abused or neglected. Located in rural Jamaica, Mount Olivet is home for around 30 boys with an average age of 12 from urban and socially deprived areas of Jamaica. Mount Olivet offers love and support which will enable these boys to lead meaningful and productive lives. Please donate your used stamps to the church by placing them in the post box in the vestibule. We will ensure the project receives support from Markinch Parish Church.

Dates For Your Diary - Fundraising for 2011

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

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.

Sale of Work - Saturday 29th October

Full details to follow in Sunday Bulletins and on the website.

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.

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 2010/2011 ended quite literally on a high note at the end of March when we were treated to some great singing by G.A.M.A. members.

Since then the Leadership Team has been busy arranging the syllabus for 2011/2012. Now we've no wish to blow our own trumpets but it looks as if it will be very interesting and entertaining. However, on the subject of trumpets, they, along with various other instruments will be blown at our opening meeting on 12th September when entertainment is being provided by Buckhaven and Methil Miners Brass Band. It should be a blast!

Tickets will be available some time in August so please come along and find out more about what the rest of the session holds in store. We'd love to see you.

Nan McRoberts, Convener

Markinch and Community District Choir

The choir had their first meeting on 20th April 2011 and after only ten rehearsals, gave their first concert in the Town Hall on Saturday 25th June supported by some guest artistes. The choir's next meeting will be held from 7 to 9pm on Wednesday 31st August in the Church Hall and everyone over 14 years of age will be welcome to come along and SING FOR FUN!

Battle of the Somme 95th Anniversary

Contributed by Harry Gould

Now that retirement has come, I decided to fulfill my ambition to visit the Somme Commemoration Ceremonies, by car, so that I could visit all of the ceremonies on July 1, if possible. This year is the 95th anniversary of the Battle. I focused on July 1, so left on June 30 to sail at midnight to Calais, then drive to La Boisselle, and grab a few hours sleep in the car, before the Ceremonies began.

At 7.28am, the service began at Lochnagar Crater, the exact time when the mine was blown to mark the start of the Battle in 1916. There were over 3,000 people there around the Crater this year. Nearby, new tunnels have been found and are being excavated.

One hour later it was time to move on to Contalmaison, for the 9.15am service for Macrae's Battalion, and the Royal Scots, and others, who were there. The coaches arrived, with the dignitaries, and football club representatives, as did Kilbarchan Pipe Band and about 400 others, for a service led by Rev. David Sutherland of Arras Church. I spoke to a Miss Todd who laid a wreath here for her great uncle, as I had visited his grave years ago at Erquinghem-sur-lys, and she was amazed that anyone would go to visit his grave.

A 10.30am finish left just enough time to go to Thiepval for 11.00am. The car park was a field, where grounding of the vehicle was a distinct possibility; this was the worst field in which I have ever parked a car. At the Monument, some 10,000 people had gathered, from many different countries. The Royal Irish Regiment Band led the ceremony, and the Royal British Legion were there in vast numbers as this is the 90th anniversary of the Legion.

When the Ceremony was over, it was lunchtime, and I went into Albert, famous for the Church with the gold-leafed Virgin Mary, and its legend that when the Virgin Mary fell, the War would be over (she fell in 1918). Hundreds of others went to Albert, and many of them found the Irish Pub, or the Scottish Pub, while I found the frituur.

2.30pm saw thousands gathered at the Ulster Tower to commemorate the Irish at the Somme, and again the Ceremony lasted about an hour. That just left enough time to get to Newfoundland Park at Beaumont-Hamel for 3.45pm, where there were Canadian veterans from the Second World War, and the President of Newfoundland and Labrador, leading the Commemoration. At the far end of Newfoundland Park there is a monument to the 51st Highland Division, similar to the one that was on the Powrie Brae in Dundee, and there are several Fife casualties in the British Cemeteries in the Park.

It was then time to return along the narrow French country lanes, to go to Fricourt for 5.15pm. Here the French and Germans were commemorating the War and for the third time I encountered a Piper from the Kilbarchan Pipe Band,

having spoken to him at La Boisselle and then met him again at Contalmaison. He told me that he had once done all the services on the one day, but that it needed quiet roads and good weather. I was lucky on both counts.

From Fricourt I returned to Albert for 6.30pm. In Albert, the Royal Irish Regiment Band led a parade of Brass and Pipe Bands to the cemeteries, and the Church with the Virgin Mary. The parade lasted until 8.15pm.

After a Son et Lumiere show in Pozieres, I then drove north to the Ypres area to Langemark.

On the Saturday, I visited Ypres, and then went to Tyne Cot, where I have a relative on the Memorial to the Missing. I also went back to Erquinghem-sur-Lys, and visited the grave again, before continuing to Fromelles, to the new Commonwealth War Cemetery, which opened last year with the graves of the recently found, and identified, soldiers from a mass grave. Most of the casualties there were Australian, but there were British including many Scots, some of them from Fife.

I ended up back in Ypres for the Last Post Ceremony, me and about 9,999 others. All the foreign dignitaries from the Somme on Friday, the Royal British Legion officials, and the Royal Irish Regiment, had moved north on Saturday, to make the Ceremony amazing, a very fitting way to end a whistle-stop commemoration of World War 1. An ambition that retirement has helped me to achieve, in an unforgettable manner.

My golfing partner would like to join me on a similar foray next year, then 2014 is the centenary of the War, and 2016 would be the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, and I would expect the crowds out there then to be enormous.

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1. *Which Scottish football team were responsible for the monument at Contalmaison?*
 2. *Why would people from Fife visit the grave of James Todd in Erquinghem-sur-Lys?*
 3. *Which German was originally buried in Fricourt by the British?*

Answers to Harry Gould. There will be a prize for first all-correct entry drawn out at the coffee morning on September 1, 2011

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.



Rotary Shoebox Appeal

The gift of a shoebox that contains toys, toiletries, educational items or household goods is a drop of happiness to the people of Eastern Europe who live in a world of poverty. For many, it will be the first present that they have ever received and it lets them know that somebody, somewhere cares. If you would like to take part, you will be able to collect the boxes from Markinch Parish Church soon.

Members and friends of Markinch Parish Church are great supporters of this appeal and we usually sent about 500+ boxes and this is greatly appreciated. We recognise that for many, the cost of filling a box is quite high so donations of individual items or even £1 to cover transportation costs can be given to John Wood or Tracy Thomson, who will fill boxes on your behalf.

Boxes can be filled with:- Toys such as 'Matchbox' type toy cars, small bouncy balls, jigsaws, fluffy toys, dolls, colouring books, felt tip pens, Lego, yoyo's, bubble blow, etc. Toys are especially appreciated, since these boxes can be used for birthday gifts.

The type of contents are indicated on the box top. In the case of toys, additional information as to the suitability for boy or girl, along with age group is also indicated. A card with the senders name and address, along with a photograph is also a nice thing to include.

Teenagers:- Please remember boxes for teenage boys and girls up to the age of 18. Such as: make-up, toiletries, sportswear, scarf, gloves, hat, writing materials, deodorants, comb, mirror, football memorabilia, etc

Household Goods such as hand soap, toothpaste and brushes, envelopes, letter paper, biro pens, etc. This box is also good for older folk, especially if a warm scarf or a pair of gloves is included. Please do not mix the contents of the boxes since this makes distribution difficult. Above all, the contents should be of good quality, remembering that the recipient will be opening the box in eager anticipation, and especially with the toys for the children, quite possibly the first real gifts they have received for as very long time.

Food:- We have had to discontinue with food boxes due to border problems at most East European countries

Shoeboxes were delivered to the following destinations during 2011 :-

Jan	Iasi	11,056 boxes	Iasi 2000 Rotary
April	Siria, Romania	1250 boxes	ANP NetWorks
April	Baia Mare, Romania	3334 boxes	Hope & Homes
April	Cluj Napoca	1620 boxes	Fundatia Ajutorul Familiei
April	Cluj Napoca	1250 boxes	Cluj Samus Rotary Club
April	Cluj Napoca	2310 boxes	Prison Fellowship
April	Cluj Napoca	1410 boxes	Excelsior Foundation
April	Tinaud, Romania	1540 boxes	Association Spurgeons
May	Croatia	546 boxes	Refugee Relief
June	Kiev	2972 boxes	IAT, Pasha Ozeruga

Summary Of Recent Congregational Board Business

May 2011 Meeting

Ministry and Mission allocation for 2011 Markinch has been awarded £4,000 on the understanding that this will be our contribution towards the employment of the Youth worker and assist with the administrative costs incurred by GROW

Appointment of a gardener Garry Laing has been appointed and is now in post at a salary of £20 / fortnight as long as he is required.

Finance

- (1) the income from the Gift Day in February now stands at £3,815, an increase of £616 on the previous year's total
- (2) future applications for tax rebates were to be submitted on a quarterly basis
- (3) the total cost of repairing the organ was £1,334
- (4) the cost of gas/electricity for the period Dec 2010 – March 2011 was £1783 and £1968 respectively.
- (5) £12,000 was transferred from the Fabric Fund to the General Account
- (6) the income from letting the hall to non church organisations stands at £305
- (7) £325 was paid for replacing the pump for the shower at the Manse
- (8) an enquiry is to be made as to whether or not (a) there is a written contract relating to the annual servicing the clock in the tower and (b) the annual contract covers the cost of any item which needs to be replaced

Property

- (1) Hardies have carried out an inspection of our property with regard to their condition and will prepare a report detailing the repair work that is required.
- (2) the boilers in the church and the hall have both been serviced and copies of the report are to be placed in the Property Register.
- (3) Scott Wilson has been asked to repair possible leaks in the roof of the church and also investigate the condition of the gutters and sarking relating to the Session House
- (4) a planning application to repair/replace the windows in the hall is to be submitted and, if approved, the work involved is likely to be completed by the end of the year.

Fundraising / Social Events The proceeds from various Christian Aid fundraising events will be used to help provide shelters in Thailand for refugees from Burma

Hall Committee Board members were encouraged to give their support towards Spring Cleaning the hall due to be held on Saturday 21st May.

Markinch : Its Church and Parish

By Ian Gourlay and Ken Wilkie

Copies of this book 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)

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 Convener:	Nancy Munro	01592 743822
Roll-keeper:	Ian Sankey	01592 749633
Safeguarding Convener:	Nancy Butler	01592 757428
Sunday School Convener:	Helen Paterson	01592 771690
Guild Convener:	Nan McRoberts	01592 753916
Organist:	Jean Forsyth	01592 758264
Church Officer:	Gavin Brown	01592 756976
Life and Work & Christian Aid:	Tracy Thomson	01592 775752
Property Convener:	Robert Balfour	01337 831400
Hall Convener:	John Wood	01592 750327

The Kirk Session

Rev Alexander Forsyth	Robert Balfour	Alexina Bryce
John Burns	Nancy Butler	Hugh Connell
Ian Cowie	Alexander Craig	Morven Duncan
Ian Gordon	Bryan Gould	Harry Gould
Alexander Grant	Joan Grant	Robert Grant
Douglas Jolly	Ian Johnstone	William Massie
Gordon Michie	Nancy Munro	William Paterson
Ian Sankey	Margaret Sankey	John Sinski
Alison Taylor	Grant Taylor	Anne Thompson
Alistair Thomson	Susan Thomson	Tracy Thomson
Herbert Ward	Marjorie Ward	Ian Watt
Kenneth Wilkie	Jean Wilson	John Wood

Members of The Congregational Board

Representing the Kirk Session

Doug Jolly (Clerk to the Board)	John Wood (Session Clerk)
Tracy Thomson (Deputy Session Clerk)	Nancy Munro (Treasurer)
Robert Balfour (Property Convener)	Hugh Connell
Bill Massie	Bert Ward
Ian Watt	Jean Wilson

Non Kirk Session Members

Helen Bayne	Sandy Brown	Bill Dodds
Teresa Henderson	Rae Houston	Jim Munro
Helen Paterson	Linda Paterson	Marianne Sankey
Harry Stewart	Lottie Wilson	

The Youth Club

We have had yet another busy year at our Youth Club with over 30 children attending regularly each week. They enjoyed spending time in the Church Hall garden playing football, rugby and tennis as well as just socialising with their friends. Activities which the youngsters enjoy inside the hall include badminton, craft activities, Lego and board games, however, taking a turn at serving snacks at the tuck shop seems to be the most popular pastime of the evening.

We recently joined Youth 1st which is the largest non-uniformed organisation working with and for the young people of Fife. They offer an interesting and varied programme of opportunities for our youngsters including training and seminars on various issues plus sports and fun days. In addition, they offer support and advice to our volunteer youth workers.

We are very proud to announce that 2 of our youngsters, Vikki Taggart and Grace Cassells were recently presented with Achievement Awards at the Youth 1st AGM. Both girls are eager to help, support new members and contribute to the running of the Youth Club. They are both worthy winners.

In June, 36 Youth Club members went to Laser Quest at Jungle Jim's in Glenrothes for their annual outing. The youngsters enjoyed 2 hours of fun and excitement. During the buffet they were presented with prizes for the highest scores. We also sang Happy Birthday to Kyle and Sophie who both became teenagers that week.

Following a successful year working with the youngsters Markinch Youth Club we were nominated by Youth 1st to Youth Scotland for sponsorship with B&Q, and we are proud to say that we received a letter in July from Youth Scotland notifying us of our partnership with the B&Q store in Kirkcaldy and we will now begin to liaise with the store for future fundraising ventures.



Some of the Youth Club volunteers and members at the Youth 1st AGM with Grace and Vicki showing off their certificates.



Responding to the East African food crisis, Christian Aid has launched an emergency appeal to help people affected across the region. An initial £240,000 has been released for immediate response and Christian Aid's work will be scaled up as the crisis intensifies across the region.

Drought and displacement combined with rising food prices has left the east and the horn of Africa, especially Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, in need of urgent humanitarian support.

The United Nations reports that the situation is the worst food security crisis in the world today and some parts of the region are experiencing the driest conditions in 60 years. After two poor rainy seasons in 2011, drought in countries affected has left more than 11.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.



At the same time Christian Aid is concerned that large numbers of people who have been displaced within Sudan and from Somalia that are also facing food shortages. Christian Aid staff members in the region are reporting cases of malnutrition in children and adults, and people begging for water on the side of the road.

Even animals which are normally resistant to drought such as camels, donkeys and goats are suffering. Due to the lack of water, some schools and hospitals have been forced to close and people are travelling for miles to collect water to drink.

Christian Aid's partners in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are closely monitoring the situation. They will work in emergency relief camps and with affected communities.

This appeal will fund urgently needed life-saving measures, such as:

- working in refugee camps to ensure the administration of newly arriving refugees. This will enable partners to respond to each family's specific needs, including ensuring severely malnourished children get to feeding centres.
- providing the necessary water and food rations to new arrivals in refugee camps, plus giving them items such as plastic sheeting for shelter, jerry cans, mosquito nets and cooking utensils.
- providing emergency tanks and distribution of water for villages experiencing the worst of the drought conditions.
- constructing additional water points and maintaining existing boreholes.

- providing food for families who currently are not reached by the World Food Programme response.
- providing extra nutrition for malnourished children and pregnant women.
- distributing animal feed to protect livestock that are so crucial to people's livelihoods
- helping communities become more resilient to future crises.

As a church we have already sent £600.00 thanks to the recent donations and other fundraising schemes we have in place, such as our second-hand book stall.

Many thanks to all who have already supported this appeal. If you would like to support the work of Christian Aid in east Africa place your gift in the Christian Aid Well. It is on the table in the entrance to the church.

Please give generously.
Rev Alex Forsyth, Minister

Crochet Remembrance Poppy

Following the great success of selling the 'knitted chicks' we are now appealing for your help in making the Remembrance Poppies. A crochet pattern is shown below. All poppies donated will be sold and all money raised will be sent to the Earl Haig Fund. For more information please contact Tracy Thomson on 01592 775752



A small amount of red wool is required, here I used a double knitting cotton mix and a 4.5mm crochet hook. I also used a small fabric covered black button.

Pattern Ch 3, join with sl st to form circle.

Ch 3, work 9 dc into the centre of the circle and join with sl st.

Work the three petals separately.

Petal 1. Ch 3, work 1st dc into same st, work 2 dc into each of the next 3 sts.

ch 1 work 2 sc into each st, tie off.

Petal 2. work 2 dc into last dc of previous petal, work 2 dc into each of the next 3 sts.

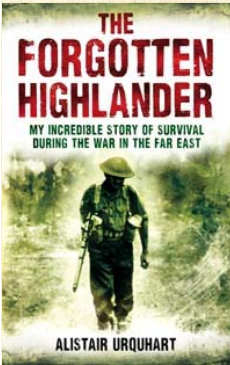
ch 1 work 2 sc into each st, tie off.

Petal 3. Work as petal 2.

Sew all ends in and attach button in the centre.

“Fact and Fiction”

Book Reviews by Harry Gould and Rev Alex Forsyth



If you are interested in War as it was for the ordinary Allied soldier in the Far East in World War II, then *The Forgotten Highlander* is for you. This is grim reality, a testament to determination to survive in the face of almost overwhelming inhumanity to man.

The author, Alistair Urquhart, waited over 60 years before deciding to tell his story, to publicise the atrocities, and give an understanding of why many soldiers never told their story of the reality of War against Japan.

The author left Aberdeen, the Granite City, to go to war in Singapore, and then the Japanese attacked. The Allies who were captured were taken inland, most famously to construct the Death Railway, and the Bridge on the River Kwai.

Urquhart typified the qualities of granite in his hard determination to survive all of the atrocities which were imposed on the Prisoners of War by their captors. The Geneva Convention would best be described as fiction when reading of the treatment received.

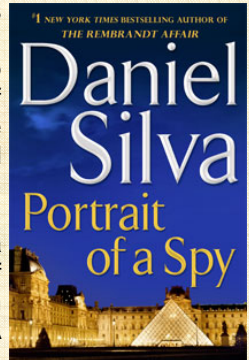
Towards the end of the War, the author, and thousands of others, had to march back to Singapore to be shipped to Japan. U.S. submarines attacked the convoy and hundreds drowned, many of them Scots. After rescue, the author was taken to the outskirts of Nagasaki, which was then hit by the Atomic Bomb. When the U.S. troops came in, there would be all of the problems of readjusting to civilian, post-war life.

By reading or hearing about experiences such as this, people can learn about man's inhumanity to man in wartime. *H.G.*

Gabriel Allon, master art restorer and spy, returns in this spellbinding new book from the bestselling author Daniel Silva. The main character, Gabriel Allon, is a man with a deep appreciation for all that is beautiful. Gabriel is also an angel of vengeance who will stop at nothing to see justice done. Sometimes he must journey far in search of evil. And sometimes evil comes to him.

Living in an isolated cottage on the cliffs of Cornwall, a summons brings him to Washington and he is drawn into a confrontation with the new face of global terror. At the centre of the threat is an American-born cleric in Yemen to whom Allah has granted “a beautiful and seductive tongue.” Once a paid CIA asset, this evil mastermind is planning a new wave of attacks.

Set against the very different worlds of art and intelligence, *Portrait of a Spy* moves swiftly from the corridors of power in Washington, to the glamorous auction houses of New York and London, to the unforgiving landscape of the Saudi Arabian desert. The climax of the book will leave you haunted long after you turn the last page. This is a deeply entertaining story. It is also a breath-taking portrait of courage in the face of unspeakable evil. *A.F.*



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