

# News from the Pews

The Newsletter of Markinch Parish Church

Vol 93 Feb 2012



# 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 26th February 2012 at 11.00 am.



## From the Minister - The First Word

The ups and downs of daily living bring us all a mixture of success and failure.

Steve Goodier, in his book "Touching Moments," tells about a man who went to see his manager to find out the secret of her success.

He asked her, "How did you manage to do so well in this organization?"

The woman replied, "Two words - good decisions."

He continued, "How were you able to make such good decisions?"

"One word," she responded, "experience."

He then asked, "How did you get that experience?"

"Two words," she replied, "bad decisions."

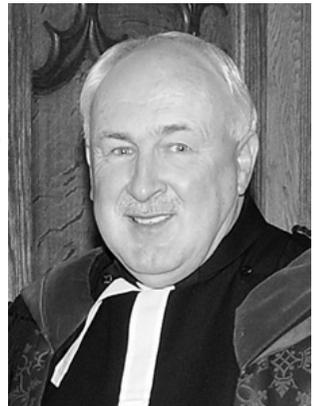
Life's like that, a messy business not an exact science.

Sport and the business world both have lessons for living. It's clear from Rugby's Calcutta Cup that not every game plan is a winner. Andy Murray uses different strategies to enhance his own strengths and exploit his opponent's weaknesses. They don't always work out that way!

Michael Jordan, the great basketball player, recently reminded young players that to succeed you need to risk failure "I have missed more than nine thousand shots in my career," he said, "and lost almost three hundred games. Twenty-six times I was given the opportunity to win the game by sinking a shot – and I missed! I have failed over and over and over again in my life, that's why I'm so successful."

In the business world not every new product is destined to become a market leader. Post-It Notes are one of 3M's best-selling products. They first saw the light of day as a failed project. A scientist at 3M was attempting to improve the acrylate glue for 'Scotch' tape. He came up with a new formula for an adhesive. This new glue would stick at first, but then it was easily pulled off. He thought this new adhesive was a failure, but instead of throwing the formula in the bin, he decided to share it with others in the company just in case there might be some use for it.

*/cont.*



Art Fry, a new-product development researcher, experimented with the new glue and eventually came up with the idea for the Post-It Note. What started out as a failed adhesive for 3M turned out to be one of their highest earning products.

Life is a mixture of success and failure, right choices, wrong choices, good decisions, bad decisions. The saddest summary of a life contains just seven words – could have, might have and should have. Jesus in his life and work made it quite clear – failure is never final.

See you in church

*Alex*

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2012**

All members of the Congregation are encouraged to attend this year's A.G.M. which will be held in the hall on Monday 19th March 2012

The agenda for the meeting will follow the usual format and include a Statement of Accounts and a Statistical Report for the year ending December 2011.

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 it has been presented to members of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board at a meeting on Sunday 18th March. Members of the Congregation who wish a copy and are not on line can obtain a copy on request to Nancy Munro.

3M Post-It Note®

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

The church website continues to receive good feedback on the design and content of the site from its visitors. In the last year we have had over 85,000 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.

## From the Parish Register

### **Baptisms**

11.12.11 Remi Kayla West  
05.02.12 Callum James Cassells

### **Ordination of Elders**

05.02.12 Fatima Johnston  
05.02.12 James House

### **Funerals**

05.11.11 Alexander Manson  
05.11.11 Andrew Ross  
09.11.11 Barbara Buist  
17.11.11 James Muir  
18.11.11 Catherine Fulton  
23.11.11 Davina Grubb  
30.11.11 Helen Flockhart  
05.12.11 James Sturrock  
10.12.11 Rea Matthew  
16.12.11 Peter Welsh  
26.12.11 Helen Liston  
26.12.11 William Bissett  
04.01.12 Bill Dodds  
05.01.12 Nan Braid  
28.01.12 Catherine Campbell  
28.01.12 Elizabeth Terras  
28.01.12 John Gourlay  
31.01.12 Mary Currie  
01.02.12 Alice Farmer  
02.02.12 Alexander Braid



## Sunday School

The Sunday school is back in full swing after the Christmas break and have been busy learning about Jonah and the whale and Daniel and the Lions. The children enjoy listening to bible stories, singing songs and doing a variety of craft activities.

New members are always very welcome and even if your children are all grown up feel free to bring along your grandchildren to join in the fun. We meet in the church hall at 10.45am prior to the service.

A very big thank you to everyone who has helped support, our sponsored child, Surafel, in Ethiopia The latest letter and photographs are on display in the hall and anyone wishing to contribute can add their name to the calendar and give their money to Helen, Moira or Suzie.

## The Guild

With only two meetings in February and two in March left on the syllabus the current Guild session is almost over. Sadly, membership continues to fall and attendance at meetings has been disappointing.

At the AGM on 12th March, serious consideration will have to be given to the question of whether the Guild has a future in Markinch.

Meantime this session concludes on March 26th with an open night when entertainment is being provided by dancers from the Sarah Hendry School of Dance. Tickets priced £3.50 will be available soon. We hope to see you there.

*Nan McRoberts, Convener*

## Memories Of World War II

After reading Harry Gould's article on his whistle-stop tour of War Cemeteries in Northern France to commemorate the 95th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, memories of wartime came flooding back. While at High School we were offered the names and addresses of French children as pen-friends. My friend was called Marcelle, and lived on a farm in the Calvados region of Normandy, on the outskirts of Livarot. We corresponded for around four years, until she left school, and letters became fewer, and eventually we lost touch. During this period, however, she sent us parcels of butter and cheese, and in return we sent knitting wool, which was scarce there, and my mother always had a good supply, as she knitted for the family, and for soldiers.

Livarot is a small town renowned for the cheese of that name, made from either raw, or pasteurised, milk. It is the oldest cheese made in Normandy, dating from

the 17th century, delicious, but a bit pungent. Livarot is not only famous for cheese, but also for cider. Normandy cows have a distinctive appearance, being white with clusters of brown spots. Marcelle's parents sent the farm milk to the local fromagerie, and the apples to the Cidrerie.

About 43 years later, while touring in France by car, I noticed a road sign for Livarot and remarked that this is where my pen-friend lived! As we were heading to a meeting in the Loire region, we could not follow this up. However, the following autumn we made a point of seeking out Marcelle. We found the village and, armed with photographs, enquired at the local cheese shop. The lady did not know of the family, and called on a little old lady next door, who recognised the family right away, and directed us to the farm. By this time, the farmhouse known as the Manoir had been restored and was a visitors' site. We found that the farm had moved too, up a single track, and we saw two men lopping the hedges and blocking the track. One of them turned out to be Marcelle's brother, Roland. After some explaining, he took us to the house to meet his mother and sister. Again some explaining, but Monique understood, and offered us tea and cakes, while Roland appeared with a dusty old bottle of Calvados, what else!! This was excellent, strong yet smooth, and we were driving. After some conversation, Monique suggested that we should follow her to the next village to meet Marcelle. You can imagine her utter surprise, astonishment and disbelief. It was a lovely meeting, reminiscing, and she wanted us to stay for a meal. We had to disappoint her as we had booked on the Hovercraft, but promised to return the following year and stay with them.

This we did, and met her husband Jean, a lorry driver who also helped on the farm. Marcelle ran a Bar Tabac, selling everything from petrol, and calor gas to charcuterie, bread, newspapers, and of course the Bar. They had huge appetites and said the Scottish were poor eaters. Jean took us out in his car to see the local area, the Manoir where the family stayed during the War. He also took us to meet an old gentleman in one of the Manoirs, where the first British soldiers stayed in hiding. We then went o past the Haras d'Ouilly, the racecourse and stables which then belonged to the Aga Khan.

Another day, the four of us went to the Mont-St-Michel, which is accessed by a causeway and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the Abbey, restaurants, museum shops, and, of course, we climbed the steps to the ramparts. We also visited the oldest house in Lisieux, made of the traditional wood and plaster, and saw many houses being restored. We visited the local church and had a chat with the "beadle", who told us that part of the building was 13th Century, and the remainder 16th/17th.

It was an exciting five days, but unfortunately we were not able to visit them again, although we continued to keep in touch for many years until Marcelle's death in 2004.

*Jenny Spittal 12th January, 2012*

## A message from our Session Clerk

### Unitary Constitution

The Kirk Session and the Congregational Board have agreed to transfer to a Unitary Constitution (where there is only a Kirk Session), from the present Model Constitution (where the affairs of the congregation are dealt with by a Congregational Board and a Kirk Session).

We will then pass a Resolution at the AGM in March to adopt the Unitary Constitution. Of course, we have to deal with Presbytery and the central body of the church, so it will take time to actually take effect! I'm reliably informed that around 9 months is the usual timescale.

There are a number of reasons why we should change :-

We will operate more efficiently; there will be no delaying of business decisions; we will satisfy the need for 'Trustees' meetings, which at present, are joint meetings of Session and Board, and are required by OSCR and Charity Law; we will have less formal 'business' meetings and more meetings with spiritual and theological content.

We need to merge the structures of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board whilst operating efficiently. We intend to operate with committees given 'delegated authority', so there will be no need to bring matters such as authorising the expenditure on a roof repair, to the Board for sanctioning. It may mean that we will utilise the same reporting structure as the present Kirk Session and issue individual committees' reports to trustees prior to the main meetings so we have more structured meetings.

There will probably be less pressure on our treasurer to produce regular financial statements for the new Kirk Session, unless the finance committee needs to report an urgent matter. I would think that once or twice a year will be deemed necessary, as the new Kirk Session trustees will have read reports from the finance committee prior to meetings, therefore will be aware of our financial position i.e. meeting our commitments and targets.

I am sure we will fine-tune how we work as we move forward, although I am looking forward to the future.

God bless.

*John Wood*

### **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 £1, Lucky tickets and home baking on sale.





## **Christian Aid events taking place in Markinch Parish Church**

**Friday 27th February to Sunday 8th April - Count your Blessings\*  
Sunday 1st April - Let's Bowl over Poverty - Super Soup Lunch  
Thursday 13th & 17th May - Coffee Mornings 10am till 11.15am  
Thursday 17th May - Quiz Night**

### **\*COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS**

**Lent is a time to take each day to reflect, pray and be thankful for the goodness of God and the blessings that we have received.**

**Make Lent count this year in a fresh way by joining us on the Count Your Blessings journey and supporting some of the poorest communities in the world.**

**Come along to Church or the coffee morning and collect a Count Your Blessings leaflet or download one from [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) All money raised can be returned to Nancy Munro and will be sent as one large cheque at the end of Christian Aid Week.**

## **Surafel Alemayehu - Our Sponsored Child in Ethiopia**

In the most recent letter received from Surafel he said:-

"How are you and your family. I am fine. Praise to God. Best wishes on your Christmas and New year. Winter is over and I have started schooling. May God bless you richly for helping me to learn. I love you all."

He also asked "Is there a big lake in your country? What is it's name?"

Surafel asked us to pray for him "That I become healthy"

The latest letter and the new photograph of Surafel (age 10) are also on display in the hall. If anyone would like to contribute please pick the days of the year you wish to sponsor him for (£1 per day) add your name to the calendar and give the money to Helen, Moira or Suzie.





# Balbirnie Park Golf Club

**Memberships are available for the 2012 Season.**

Don't miss our "Open" Weekend on  
Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th March 2012.

**Join for only £10 plus annual subscription**

## **Membership:**

<b>Ordinary (over 30yrs)</b>	<b>£465</b>
<b>Intermediate 1 (18-21yrs)</b>	<b>£225</b>
<b>Intermediate 2 (22-24yrs)</b>	<b>£280</b>
<b>Intermediate 3 (25-27yrs)</b>	<b>£335</b>
<b>Intermediate 4 (28-29yrs)</b>	<b>£390</b>
<b>Juniors (10-15 yrs)</b>	<b>£90</b>
<b>Juniors (16-17yrs)</b>	<b>£145</b>

**Social Membership    ONLY £25**

Contact the Club Administrator on 01592 612095 or  
email [administrator@balbirniegolf.com](mailto:administrator@balbirniegolf.com)

# Balbirnie Park Clubhouse



Heather and John would like to welcome you to the Clubhouse here at Balbirnie Park.

Our bar and lounge overlook the splendour of the 18<sup>th</sup> Green, a perfect setting for lunch, dinner or any special occasion.

Our Winter Warmer Lunch (Tues to Thurs Weekly) from 12.00 to 3.00pm @ ONLY £5.95 for 2 Courses.

We also have an extensive Bar menu and daily specials which are available 7 days a week.

Looking for somewhere different, why not book for a traditional High Tea or for Sunday Lunch. Or why not join us for a coffee and a cake?

Got a Special Occasion coming up? Why not let us help your celebrations with a Bespoke menu from 6 to 60 plus people.

Over the year we have many Club social functions, including several dinner and cabaret nights. Why not become a social member of the club for only £25 and enjoy its benefits?

You are guaranteed a warm welcome and we would be delighted to see you and your friends. To make an enquiry or a reservation please contact us on 01592 612095



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# Lynn Cunningham

## Chartered Accountant

Markinch & Cupar



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01592 612001 or 01334 657766  
info@lynncunninghamca.com

### Wanted - Easter Chicks

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



## HELP RAISE MONEY FOR OUR CHURCH BY RECYCLING

We will soon be getting new indoor Rag Bag bins and as soon as each one is filled we will be sending the rags away. We will accept 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!!!

Start collecting today and bring all your unwanted items to the Church hall.

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



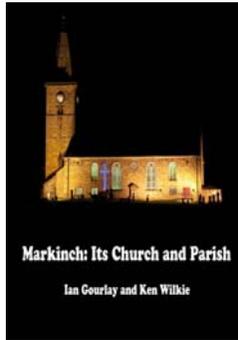
## Two new Elders ordained at Markinch Parish Church

Mrs Fatima Johnston and Mr James House were ordained as church Elders by Rev. Alex Forsyth during the morning service at Markinch Parish Church on Sunday 5th February. The photograph shows Rev. Alex Forsyth congratulating Fatima and James. The Kirk Session was represented by John Wood who is Session Clerk and Douglas Jolly.

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

**The paperback is priced at £12.50 (£10 for church members)  
Hardbacks now also in stock priced at £18 (£15 for church members)**

## Promises

God hath not promised  
Skies ever blue,  
Flower-strewn pathways  
All our lives through;

God hath not promised  
Skies without rain,  
Joy without sorrow,  
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised  
Strength for the day,  
Rest for the labour,  
Light for the way,

Grace for the trials,  
Help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy,  
Undying love.

*Annie-Johnson Flint*

## **A letter to our church from St Ninian's Parish Church, Glenrothes Pastoral Care Emergency Provisions**

Please convey to your Kirk Session and congregation our grateful thanks and appreciation for the donation of tinned food from your Harvest Service and for the many food donations received during the year for the emergency food parcels distributed to those in need by our Pastoral Care Team on behalf of St Ninian's Church

This is a support service which has evolved over some twenty years since the Pastoral Care Team began to look outward to the needs of the community. First came our Christmas Boxes where we collected donations from the congregation to give at Christmas to single parent families, a box of provisions with meals and snacks for three days over the festive period. Our aim was to provide them with the unique items which made Christmas Meals pleasurable. It also allowed the parent the freedom to buy gifts for their children without having to worry about meals over the holiday.

After a few years it became obvious that the months of January and February saw more and more applications come to us from sources in the town working with youngsters who were homeless, Also others found themselves in financial difficulties - theft - vandalism - lost benefit books and such extreme happenings such as a house fire. This was the time we started daily provisions working with any agency who recognised critical need and we still do today. There has been very little abuse of the system and today we are noticing an increase in the number of requests we are receiving.

Since this is a Project of Community Outreach and with the opening of our Charity Shop and Community Cafe we distribute the Bags of Provisions from within the shop. This is undertaken by the shop/cafe Project Manager who works with the Pastoral Care Team members, they each take a week to ensure the donations are stock controlled, and at all times there is an adequate supply available.

We are indebted to Markinch Parish Church for their ongoing support of donations of a variety of much needed provisions, and also to other churches and schools who have donated to us from their Harvest Services.

The Rowantree Trust donated a fridge/freezer to assist with the storing of bread, milk and spreads etc. for the parcels we provide.

Each bag of provisions has in it a Pastoral Card telling how the provisions are gifted from within the local congregations together with a telephone contact should the wish further support. Recently we have realised that coming in to the Community Shop environment has given further outreach in the area as a place of friendship and fellowship to some very isolated members of the community.

The PC Team members work from within the church building where all donations are received and stored, packed and delivered to the shop on a weekly basis. To date with the help of all who donate we have never run out of food.

On behalf of St Ninian's Pastoral Care Team and those who have received support, thank everyone in Markinch Church who over the years have contributed to this very worthwhile service. The need is unimaginable as is the gratitude.

## GIFT DAY 2012

In 2011, the income from the Gift Day appeal was placed in the special fund which had been set up to meet the overall cost of repairing/replacing the windows in the hall. Although this amounted to £3,895, it was obviously well short of the £18,000 estimate for the work and materials involved. For this reason, the Congregational Board has proposed to add this year's Gift Day income to that previously received and the congregation is again asked to be generous in their contribution.

In the meantime, although a planning application has already been submitted to Fife Council, further details of the project have been requested as the hall is in an area of conservation. These details are now being gathered and will be forwarded to Fife Council. A number of other fund awarding avenues are now being investigated to help to meet the above shortfall and the outcome of these will be intimated, as and when they become available.

However, one way of maximising your donation is to sign the Gift Aid declaration on the envelope provided and members are encouraged to ensure this has been done. Remember, people who receive pension income and who pay tax on this 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 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 !

## Markinch Amateur Operatic Society

**THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

**MAOS will be performing 'The Sound Of Music' in Markinch Town Hall from Tuesday 20th to Saturday 24th March 2012 at 7.15pm.**

Music by Richard Rogers, Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II  
Suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp

**Tickets £10 (£8 concessions)**

**Telephone booking from Monday 20th February on 01592 754537**

**Tickets also available from Markinch Town Hall from 12th March**

## 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.

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.

The type of contents which are suitable are printed 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.

**An Easter delivery run is planned so there is still time to contribute to this cause. You can collect or return boxes from the church hall any Sunday after the service or on Thursdays at morning coffees.**

## Markinch Community and District Choir

So much has happened in such a short time it's hard to believe Markinch Community and District Choir is still in its first year. Following the success of our inaugural concert in the Town Hall in June 2011 we gave 2 performances of our Christmas concert and then sang at the Rothes Halls with the Tullis Russell Mills Band in their Christmas Concert. This year we are joining in the celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and participating in concerts in the Town Hall on 24th and 25th May. Our own concert is also in the Town Hall on 23rd June.

We hold our rehearsals in Markinch Parish Church hall on Wednesdays from 7-9pm. If you would like to come along to give it a try and see if it is something you'd like to do, you would be very welcome. Although it helps if you can, it is not essential to be able to read music. We sing an exciting, wide variety of styles of music including songs from Michael Bubl , Queen, Take That, Movies, Classical and West End Shows. There is something for everyone's taste! New pieces will be added as the year progresses.

You can contact the choir secretary, David McCracken, on 01592 758149 or by email at: [mccracken241@btinternet.com](mailto:mccracken241@btinternet.com)

### III, in hospital ... and visited

Repeatedly we hear someone was in hospital and was *not* visited by their minister or church friends - sometimes even during a long hospital stay - even though they would have loved to see a familiar person. We share your frustration. Let me explain: **Your church cares about you. Your church wants to visit - if you want that. But do your church friends know?**

The NHS has to protect your data (to protect you!), that is law. Because of this “data protection” your minister CANNOT KNOW that you are in hospital; since 2003 ministers cannot look up “in-patient lists” of the day. Also, ministers cannot “do rounds” in hospital; we will not find you by chance. They can only visit when we know you “are in”.

**To improve things - here are practical things you can do:**

#### **1. Our congregations and neighbours need to communicate better:**

Get a piece of paper; and write down what you know, please - as a spoken mention may get forgotten quickly;  
write down who is ill / in care / in need;  
write down who has moved in or away;  
give this note to your elder or minister who will treat it confidentially.  
**DO NOT ASSUME YOUR ELDER / MINISTER KNOWS** (we would rather be informed several times than not to know!).

#### **2. You can help yourself - this is how it works:**

Your elder is your first contact - be in contact!  
Your minister is just a phone call away.  
Or make sure your relative/ friend/ neighbour contacts him for you.

#### **Hospital works this way:**

When you enter **hospital as a patient** a form is filled in - by yourself if you come planned (“elective admission”) or by a staff nurse if you come unforseen).  
In this form you will be asked **if you want to see the hospital chaplain**.  
If you say **NO** the chaplain will **not** be notified of your admission at that time;  
If you say **YES** (do want to see a chaplain) the chaplain will **always** visit (allow reasonable response time).

Regardless of this first YES/NO answer you can **at any time specifically ask** to see the chaplain; staff will always pass on your request to chaplains, so do ask!  
the staff on the ward may consider requesting the chaplain **for you only** if your situation makes them reckon it may be beneficial.

Chaplains can be contacted in Queen Margaret Hospital on 01383 674136 and in Victoria Hospital on 01592 648158.

The duty chaplain is on call 24/7, 365 days for urgent referrals; if an answer machine responds, the chaplain may be out on duty.

#### **If you want to see your own minister in hospital, you can:-**

ask staff to contact your minister directly, if you have the phone number (simply take this church magazine with you). if you do not have that phone number, nurses will pass your request on to the chaplain (who can find your ministers contact for you).

*Prepared by Rev. Marc Prowe, convener of Kirkcaldy Presbytery Church & Society Committee*

## **Summary Of Recent Congregational Board Business**

**Organ Fund** – Although the organ was again operating satisfactorily, the Board agreed to set up a special Organ Fund since the current one was likely to need replacing in about 10 years.

**Resignation of the Clerk** – The Board was advised that Doug Jolly, Clerk to the Board, had indicated he intended to step down from the position at the A.G.M. in March 2012

**Finance** - (a) the WFO income was at the level expected whilst the Open Plate income was slightly down.

(b) the printing and stationery costs of producing the newsletter were more or less met from the income arising from the advertisements

(c) the Stipend, Ministry and Mission allocation for 2012 were much higher than that for 2011

(d) the income from weddings and funerals was significantly down from the corresponding figures for 2010

(e) the salaries for the church officer, cleaner and organist were to be increased in January 2012 in line with inflation

**Property** – (a) the roof at the Manse has been repaired and the storm damage to the other buildings of the church will be receiving attention as soon as it is possible.

(b) further planning enquiries are in the process of being carried out in connection with the repair/replacement of the windows in the hall.

**Hall business** – The Board agreed to increase the hiring of hall charges to £20 per hour from 1st January 2012. The cost of having thermal curtains made for the 8 main windows in the hall would be in the region of £833

**Gift Day Appeal** – it was agreed to add this year's income to that which had been set aside in 2011 for repairing/replacing the windows in the hall.

**Board meetings** – a proposal to change the present Constitution to allow the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board to be combined was to be considered with the outcome being reported at the A.G.M. in March.

**Guild Donation** - a letter thanking members of the Guild for their kind donation of £170 had been sent to the Guild President.

**Stewardship Campaign** – It was agreed that no formal campaign would be held as it was recognised the members had already undertaken a number of initiatives that would be part of a campaign.

## **Rotary Club of Glenrothes - The Purple Pinkie Project**

Tracy Thomson is selling quiz sheets in aid of The Rotary Club of Glenrothes and all money raised will be used for The Purple Pinkie Project. Polio is a crippling and potentially fatal disease. Fortunately, Polio is easy to prevent by vaccination protecting children against this terrible disease for life.

Throughout the world, each time a volunteer administers a polio vaccine, a child's pinkie is coloured purple with Gentian Violet marking them to prevent double dosage on National Immunization Days and to search out children who were missed.

The Quiz Sheets are £1 each and there is a first prize of £25.

## **It's Not Easy To Achieve Perfection..... By Bryan Gould**

Do you shout out answers to TV quiz questions? Do you shake your head when someone gives a blatantly wrong answer to a question which - nobody could possibly not know? Or is that just me?

By the time this magazine appears, I will have been on "Perfection", a BBC2 quiz show hosted by Nick Knowles. I didn't win anything – but I did gain an interesting insight into how this sort of entertainment is produced.

To begin with, back in July last year, I replied to an advert looking for contestants for the show. The application form proved to be challenging – they wanted to know not only my date of birth, but also my age (couldn't they work that out themselves?). Other challenges included.....*In 3 words, how would your friends and family describe you?* and *Please tell us one interesting fact about yourself .....*

One morning, a couple of weeks later, the production company 'phoned me, and asked if I could go through to Glasgow that afternoon for an audition – and would I take my passport, and a utility bill? (No, not because they were going to fly me somewhere abroad, or pay my electricity – just to prove my identity.)

The "audition" took place in an anonymous office block, and consisted of a written set of statements which I had to categorise as True or False, and then a "screen test" (okay – on a home video camera !) with another five. They thanked me, and said they'd be in touch.....

A week later, they e-mailed me to say I was on their reserve list, and should read, sign and return the attached agreement. This document went on for nine pages, and seemed to involve my signing my entire existence over to Twelve Yard Productions; I particularly liked the Intellectual Property Rights section, where I assigned "*the entire copyright throughout the universe by all means and in all media whether now known or hereafter developed*" to the Company - throughout the universe??? How powerful are the BBC transmitters?

Their next communication was a 'phone call to say that they were on their second last day of recording, and that it didn't look as if I would be needed. So thanks, but no thanks.....Six hours later, their story had changed – could I be in Glasgow at 9.00 the next morning, with three shirts – just in case?

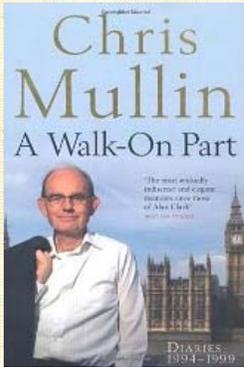
After I had been videoed hearing the programme rules read out, and signing my acceptance, had been to make-up, and was then allocated a shirt by Wardrobe - they rejected the three I'd taken with me – I found myself in a hospitality lounge, along with ten other hopefuls. Most of them had, like me, been 'phoned the previous evening – one from Exeter, one from Birmingham, and one had come through from Glenrothes by taxi! (The company paid what they called "reasonable travel expenses", so he got his £140 fare and I got 20p a mile petrol allowance.)

This series consisted of 30 programmes, they were recording 3 a day, and I arrived on day 10. So I spent the day sitting around watching two programmes being recorded, and gradually seeing my fellow-hopefuls reduced in number as they were selected to go to the studio. Oh yes, and suffering a wardrobe malfunction when I spilt satay sauce from the buffet on my shirt.....

As anyone who watched now knows, I was chosen for the last show in the series, but didn't make it down to the main part, remaining as one of the "Usual Suspects". That meant that although I spoke to the presenter, Nick Knowles, I didn't actually meet him. However, it also means that if they produce another series, they might invite me back. So who knows? I might still achieve perfection!

## Book Reviews by Rev Alex Forsyth and Ian Gourlay

### “A Walk On Part,” “A View From The Foothills,” & “Decline & Fall”: By Chris Mullin

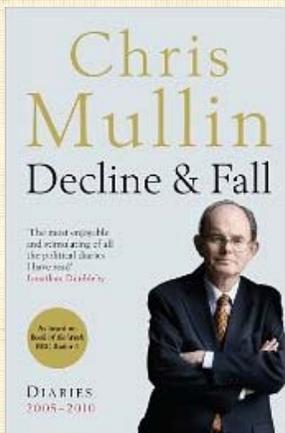
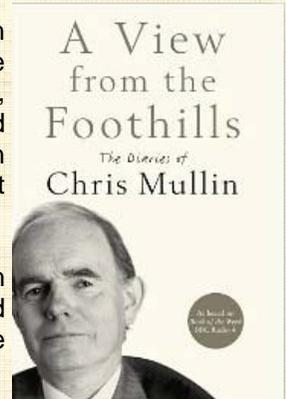


Chris Mullin began a secret diary on the day the Labour leader John Smith died in May 1994. He wrote it believing he might be well placed to chart the progress (or not) of New Labour.

Until they were published Mullen kept the diaries hidden from everyone but his family, though some politicians had their suspicions. The notes on which the diary is based were recorded in a red notebook he always carried. In the diaries Mullin comes across as a likeable character. Clearly he is a sensitive, serious man who is not without his own flaws.

Self-deprecating, frank and hilarious, his diaries give an unprecedented insight into the dramas played out in the corridors of power. Tedious government bureaucracy, petty office politics, ego-centric scheming ministers and hapless officials, pointless paperwork and badly written speeches, all go to proving my long held suspicion that the BBC's Yes, Minister was not far off the mark.

For example - November 7<sup>th</sup> 2000 - A chat with John Major in the gents' on Upper Corridor South - he asked to borrow my Listerine. John says he's not going to the House of Lords when he stands down next year.



'I wouldn't feel right in my skin,' he said. Adding mischievously: 'You Right-wingers don't understand what working-class boys like me feel about the place.'

When in 2003 Mullin reluctantly voted against Tony Blair over Iraq Mullin's diary entry reads "... The spooks are livid about the sixth-form essay on Saddam's chemical arsenal cooked up by No 10. ... I want The Man (Tony Blair) to be right. In the end that would be best for all of us."

I read all three volumes back to back over Christmas and New Year. Each one proved to be an absorbing read.

Rev Alex Forsyth

## **“The Impossible Dead”** **By Ian Rankin**

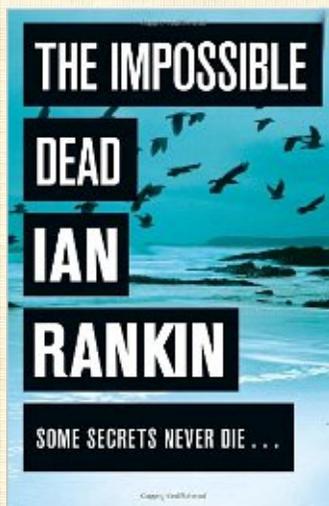
The book may pose questions to veteran Ian Rankin readers used to learning about John Rebus. Could Rankin continue his excellent body of work following the retirement of Inspector Rebus? Would Inspector Malcolm Fox fill the shoes of Rebus? To me, the answers are an emphatic yes as Rankin gives us a story full of action and well-crafted characters along with his usual droll humour. The story unfolds throughout various well-known locations in Fife and Edinburgh.

Malcolm Fox from Edinburgh Constabulary’s Internal Affairs team has been requested to investigate a corrupt Fife policeman: Paul Carter, aged 38 with 15 years service. The complaint was made by Carter’s uncle who is a retired police officer. A guilty verdict was passed down for charges of eliciting sexual favours and turning a blind eye to criminal activity going on around him. The Sheriff passing sentence stated Carter’s colleagues had been ‘wilfully stupid or wilfully complicit’ insinuating they were protecting a bad policeman. These colleagues – including Fife’s Chief Constable – obstruct the investigation at every opportunity.

Examples of Rankin’s pawky Fife humour are found in the name of Alan Carter’s border collie which he named Jimmy Nicholl after the former Raith Rovers manager. There is also an exchange between two Edinburgh policemen: ‘Linoleum used to be what Kirkcaldy was famous for – and Adam Smith.’  
‘Who did he play for?’

Paul Carter is found dead in mysterious circumstances; Alan Carter appears to commit suicide; what is the link between the murder of a political activist in 1985 with the Chief Constable? The story provides a page turner you won’t want to put it down and as a newspaper review states, ‘A most enjoyable read for fans - new and old - of Ian Rankin.’ I didn’t see the twist at the end coming.

*Ian Gourlay*



**Remember - This is YOUR magazine !**

If you have any interesting news, stories, poems etc, please hand them to Ken Wilkie or email [ken.wilkie@lineone.net](mailto:ken.wilkie@lineone.net) or call 01592 760042

**The deadline for the next issue is Friday 27th April 2012**